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Dream grant at hand

A year later, Northwest student reaps the benefits of higher education thanks to new program initiated by Hubbard.

BY DENNIS SHARKEY
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The American Dream grant is a program exclusive to Northwest, and helps students whose parents have a combined income of less than \$30,000 a year. The program works by providing all tuition, room and board except \$1500 per semester.

One of those students is Coby Sheppard, a speech and theater education major from Golden, Mo., a town of about 200 people located five minutes north of the Arkansas border.

Sheppard didn't grow up in what would seem normal to most of us but is everyday to him; both of his parents are deaf. His father gradually grew deaf over time, but his mother was born deaf and only communicates through sign language.

"I always had to go with her wherever she went," Sheppard said. "If she had to go to the doctor, I had to go to the doctor. If she had to go anywhere and see someone I had to go, and it kind of took away from school as well."

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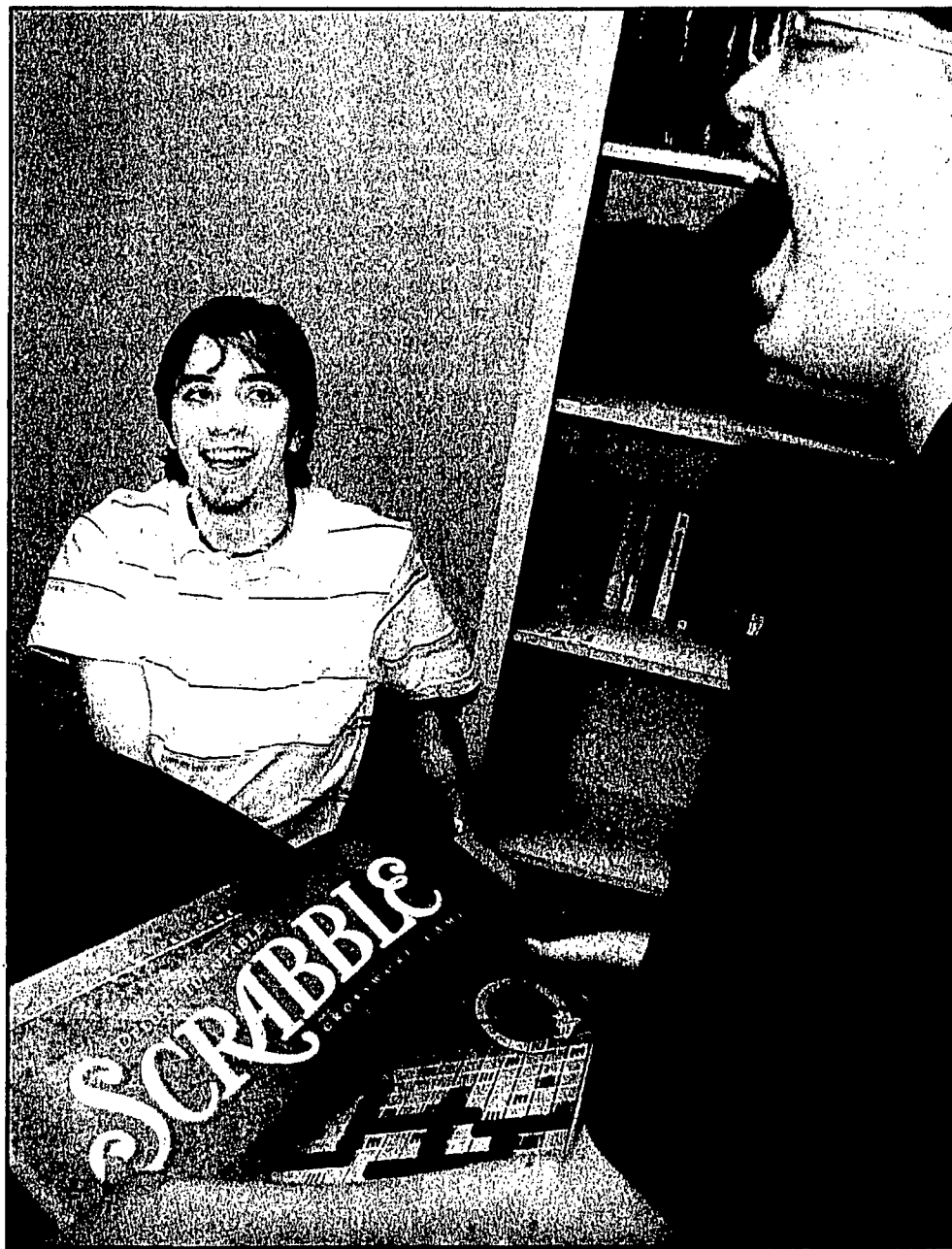
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"I actually worry about her quite a bit, and how is she going to deal with all this stuff," Sheppard said. "It was really a tough transition coming up here last fall, but it was kind of nice in some ways because she is doing well now."

please see 'DREAM' 5A



Coby Sheppard, left, visits with friends over lunch at Bobby's Grille before heading class. Sheppard was one of 151 Northwest students to receive the American Dream grant.



PHOTOS BY MATT FRYE/ NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

Northwest Writing Center tutor Nikki Noble, right, shares a laugh with freshman Coby Sheppard after an English tutoring session.

Snail mail alive in 2005

Common Citizens

profiles profiling Nodaway County residents

MALLAS REED
NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

Normally an ocean apart, two women sat inches from each other, chatting over chicken entrees at an Applebee's.

Rebecca McKim of Maryville wrote her letter to Leila Leighton-Weir, of Injune, Australia, over 40 years ago. This past fall, the two pen pals met in person for the first time.

"It's strange, because you've known somebody for so long that you sort of know them," McKim said. "But then you see them and you realize that 'I've never met this person before,' and it's an odd feeling."

For the next five days of Weir's visit, the two would talk nonstop, pausing only for a moment to eat.

The pen pal relationship began when Leila's father, Palmer, McKim's father, traveled to Australia and met Weir's father. Palmer asked Leila's daughter, who was in grade school at the time, could write to Weir.

McKim wrote many letters to numerous people in Australia through middle school and high school, but most of her relations began to fade

as she entered high school, Weir never stopped writing.

"I think the biggest reason that Leila started writing to me and persisted was because she's always been fascinated with the United States," McKim said. "It's always been her dream to come visit."

The two friends exchanged letters over the next four decades. Even though they lost touch for some years in between, the pen pals always found a way back to each other's mailbox.

McKim says she's learned much about the Australian culture through Weir's letters. Weir traveled all over the continent, spending a lot of the time cooking for her husband's work crew in the outback. But no matter where Weir was located, her letters never failed to reach McKim.

"It's just a fascinating way to learn about a country," McKim said. "It's a shame that I don't have more pen pals in other countries, because you can learn a lot (over the years)."

Weir's husband passed away recently, leaving



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Maryville resident Becky McKim, left, and Leila Leighton-Weir from Australia have been pen pals for over 35 years. Leighton-Weir recently visited McKim in Maryville. The visit marked only the second time they had seen each other.

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After selling her house Weir arrived in Missouri, where she fulfilled her dream of viewing the northwest Missouri countryside.

"I enjoyed when I took her to my in-laws' farm, where the hills are just rolling," McKim said.

please see 'PEN PAL' 5A

Peanut butter allergic reaction puts student in coma for weeks

BY ASHLEY BALLY
NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

A Northwest Freshman woke up in a hospital with no recollection of how or why.

Freshman Jaime Reed had a severe allergic reaction to a cookie, that contained peanut butter.

Spending Jan. 15 hanging out with friends and her boyfriend, Adam Sturm, Reed said she ate a cookie Sturm gave her, topped with M&M's and she couldn't taste or smell any peanut butter in it. After a five-minute walk back to her dorm room, she began to have an attack.

Reed immediately had difficulty breathing and instructed her friends to assemble a breathing machine she kept in her closet. According to Sturm, there were so many pieces to put together that while trying to fix it Reed collapsed to the floor.

"The last thing she said was she needed the shot so we read the directions and I gave it to her," Sturm said. "It was scary; I had never done anything like that."

Sturm then administered an epinephrine shot Reed kept in the room. Epinephrine constricts the blood vessels, allowing the lung muscles to relax and permit the flow of oxygen. The doctors later told Reed the shot saved her life.

The group immediately called 911 and an ambulance rushed Reed to St. Francis Hospital in Maryville.

Upon arrival the paramedics tried to administer a breathing tube, but her throat was so swollen it would not fit properly.

"At first I didn't realize what was going on," Sturm said. "When she went to the hospital it really hit me that she could die. It was really scary."

Reed's stay at St. Francis lasted 20 minutes before a LifeFlight to Heartland Hospital in St. Joseph.

"I spent five days in the trauma unit on a ventilator because I couldn't breathe on my own," Reed said. "Then I started developing tremors where my whole body would shake uncontrollably."

Reed was then moved to Creighton University Medical Center for ten days. She spent a staggering 33 days hospitalized.

"I remember waking up in Omaha, nothing before that," Reed said. "Now that I am getting better I have been getting flashbacks; it's really weird."

Rehabilitation became Reed's main focus, as physical therapy began while still in her hospital bed. As part of her recovery Reed had to teach herself to speak and walk again.

"The doctors predicted I would be in physical therapy for six weeks, but I was only there for two," Reed said. "I can walk by myself now, not with a walker. I consider myself very lucky."

She currently visits Immanuel Medical Center in Omaha for a reduced session of physical therapy, three nights a week, as an outpatient.

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THE NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY

MAV, Mo.

MISSOURIANONLINE.COM

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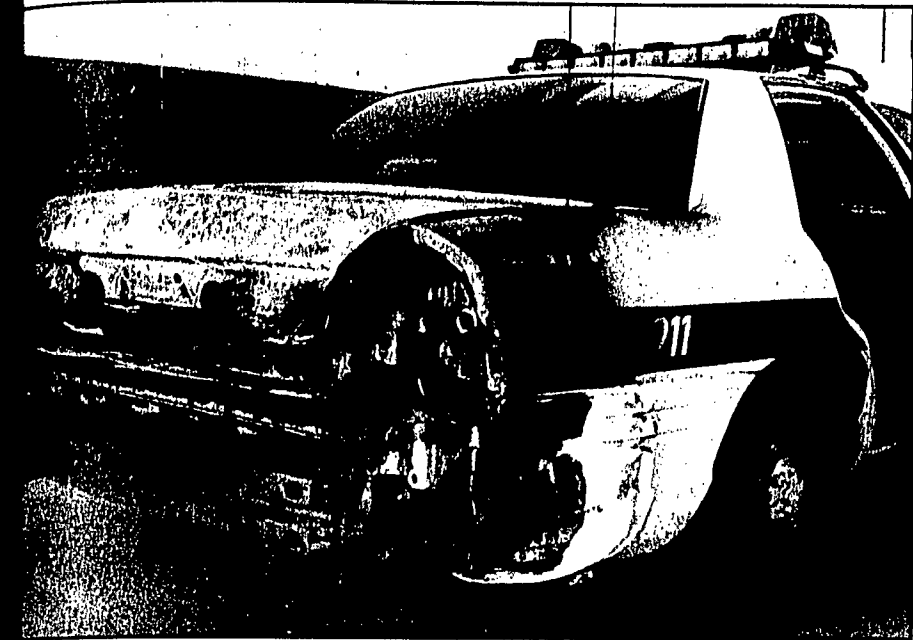


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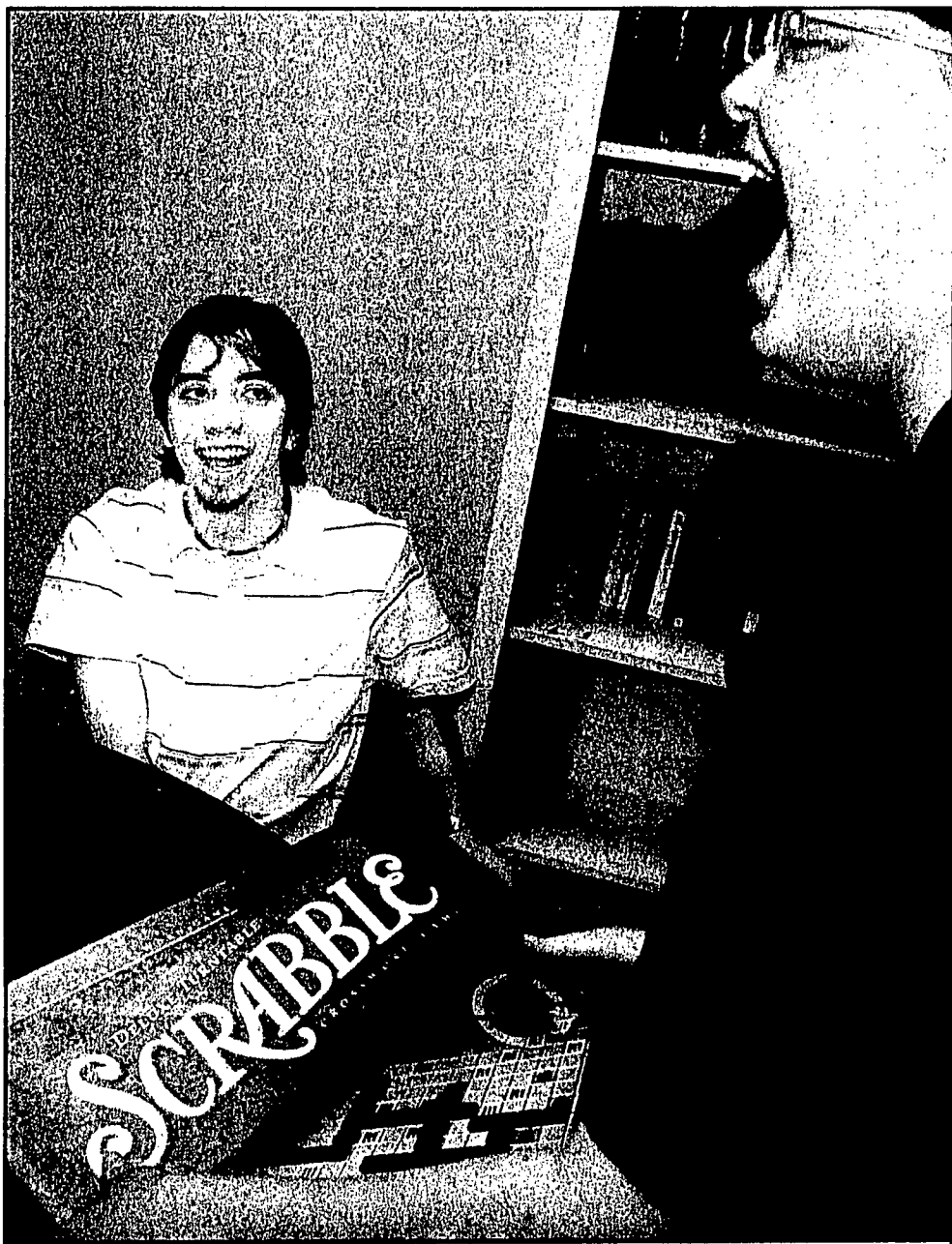
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MISSOURIAN
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Northwest basketball teams are in action this week at the MIAA Tournament. Turn to section C for more information.



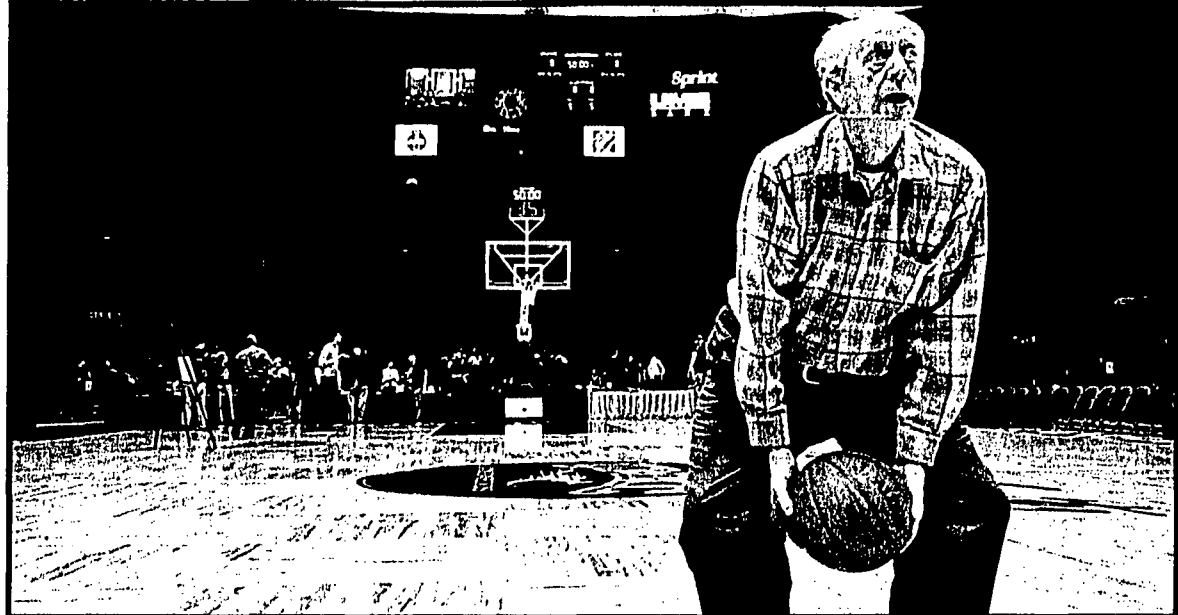
LOCAL FORECAST

FRIDAY
Mostly Sunny
High: 58
Low: 27

SATURDAY
Mostly Sunny
High: 44
Low: 27

SUNDAY
Sunny
High: 56
Low: 36

Granny Shot



John Fulton, of Kansas City, participates in a free-throw shooting activity at Municipal Auditorium in downtown Kansas City, Mo. The newly-renovated facility will be hosting the MIAA Postseason Basketball Tournament.

CHRIS OCHSNER/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Horsechestnut loses battle

BY ANDY TIMKO
NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

The controversial Horsechestnut tree on the south side of Hudson Hall has its fate sealed.

"The Hudson Tree," as it has become known, will lose its No. 1 spot on the University's tree walk sometime before July.

"I don't think anyone is happy," vice-president of student affairs Kent Porterfield said.

A concern was raised when two students heard about the proposed Hudson/Perrin renovations that would put the tree in harms way.

"The main significance is it's the only one on campus," associate director of Environmental Services Lezlee Johnson said.

Soon after, flyers were distributed around campus and the tree wrapped with yellow caution tape to draw attention to its situation.

"I hope this is a good example to show students that one or two people can make a difference," Porterfield said. "It did force

us to stop and look harder to see if there is another way."

After months of discussion, Northwest believes the best course of action is to cut down the 40-45 year old tree and replace it with several 4-5 year old trees.

One of the first suggestions was to redesign or move the building designed by architects.

The main problem to that solution was cost because the plans were already being put into action.

The second problem came with moving the building. A new building requires a 30-foot minimum space between existing buildings and new buildings, if not connected. Since the University does not want to connect the new building to Roberta, the 30-foot space must remain.

Another option was to move the tree to a different location on campus. Lezlee Johnson, associate director of Environmental Services, gathered estimates from local businesses that could move the tree.

According to Johnson, the lowest estimate she received over the phone was

\$21,000-\$26,000. Upon sending a photo of the tree to the company two new estimates came back, with pricetags of \$93,600 and \$72,200.

"We are left with the choice of spending a lot of money which doesn't make much sense," said vice-president of finance Ray Courter. "It's probably not practical in a public university with public funds."

Even if Northwest funded the relocation of the tree, Johnson believes it would not be worth the effort and money.

A centennial garden will be planted on the north side of South Complex and a Horsechestnut will be the centerpiece.

Kim Watson, one of the students trying to save the tree, was impressed with the university's response but she feels Northwest should look at the significance of the campus trees before beginning new projects.

"I think it's better to look beyond the concrete, beyond the walls, when these issues come up in the future," Watson said.

Students get chance at top job

BY BEN KOEHN
NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

What would it be like to be the University president? Flashy? Glitzy? Overwhelming? Would it drive a man to go mad with power? On Friday, March 11, one lucky student will trade places with University president Dean Hubbard.

That student will be treated like a president for a day; attending Hubbard's meetings, parking in Hubbard's spot, using Hubbard's office and eating a lunch worthy of the president himself. Hubbard himself, vice versa, will join the student body for the first time in many years and take the winning student's classes.

"It's something totally different and just off the wall," Dan Watkins Mortar Board president said.

Mortar Board, a university honor society for seniors, has been selling tickets in the Union and Colden Hall at different times since Feb. 25 and will continue to sell the tickets until Friday. The drawing will be held at noon Monday, March 7.

"I think it would be great. He could see what it's like to be a 21st-century college student, and I could sit around and play cards with the Provost and his secretary all day," Mortar Board member Bryan Becker said.

The day won't be all glitz and glamour for the winning student though.

"Incidentally, the student who takes my place will have to start in the fitness center at 6 a.m. with my personal trainer Mandy Decker, a master's student," Hubbard said. "She expects 20 hard minutes on a treadmill and a full body workout in the weight room."

This is the first year Mortar Board sponsored this event although a "President For A Day" drawing occurred here at Northwest many years ago. Asked about the last time switched spots with a student, Hubbard jokingly said, "I had a fun day for me, although I probably destroyed my student's GPA."

Hubbard and Watkins both agreed they would like to see this event become an annual occurrence.

"I'm all for it," Hubbard said. "It will be an interesting break for me. Besides, it always helps to get into the custom shoes once in a while."

Robert Dewhirst, Mortar Board advisor and professor of history, says the money raised by the drawing goes to the Mortar Board, who will then give some of the money to the Mortar Board Public Library to help buy books. The Mortar Board has been ready involved with the library in their "Reading is Learning" program, where members of the organization go to the library to read to community children.

Former POW to speak of life lessons

BY MARISSA EBELING
NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

Once again, Northwest welcomes a nationally-recognized motivational speaker to campus. Lt. Col. Barry Bridger, retired Vietnam veteran and former prisoner of war, will speak 5 p.m. Thursday in Dining Room two of the Union.

Delta Mu Delta and Northwest's chapter of the American Marketing Association worked together to sponsor Bridger's lecture. Deb Toomey, sponsor of American Marketing Association, believes students will react positively to Bridger's message.

"It's nice to have somebody come speak to our students about this type of

thing," Toomey said.

Bridger's daughter, senior Deidra, attends Northwest as a marketing major. She has heard her father speak on several occasions and says he is very open about his experiences in the war.

"ONCE YOU DEVELOP THE PROPER ATTITUDE, MINDSET AND HEART YOU CAN DO GREAT THINGS."

—Deidra Bridger
Lt. Barry Bridger's daughter

"Instead of harboring his feelings he's chosen to express them in a comical way," Deidra said.

Bridger joined the Air Force in 1963 as a pilot of F4

Phantoms. Shot down in 1967, he spent the next six years as a prisoner in a communist prison camp. While a POW, Bridger faced psychological and physical punishment such as solitary confinement

if he refused to sign a statement declaring he was a criminal and what Americans were doing was a crime.

Bridger rejoined active service in 1973. He is decorated with many awards for his service including the Silver Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star Medal w/4 OLC, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal w/1 OLC, the Air Medal w/4 OLC, the Prisoner of War Medal.

Bridger now serves as First Commandant "Ambassador At Large," giving messages of courage, discipline and success in the face of adversity. He varies his message to target any audience and gives lectures in front of variety of audiences, from military personnel to college students.

"What he has to say will apply to you're learning in college," Deidra

Bridger takes his unique perspective from his experience as a POW and relates it to life lessons.

TUESDAYS

from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
on the 2nd Floor of the Union

Campus Safety officers will be
available to discuss



-Parking Appeals
-Incident Reports
-Questions and Answers
-Information



Campus Safety

Robbie Lade benefit raises \$19,000

BY KELSEY GARRISON
NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

More than 750 crowded the Maryville Community Center Feb. 26 for the Robbie Lade Benefit auction and silent sale. The event included live and silent auctions, a raffle, and a cash bar. Proceeds from the event will go toward medical expenses for Robbie Lade.

Following the accident, Lade remained in a full coma for many weeks. The accident brought on staggering medical expenses. The family, still in the process of dealing with the legal system in Missouri, estimates to have medical expenses averaging about \$4 million over a lifetime. However, they hope insurance will cover the majority of the expenses.

Although the money was raised to benefit Lade's recovery, the family hopes that they will be able to benefit others in the future.

"We hope that we don't have to use the money, so we can help others down the line," Bob Lade, Robbie Lade's father, said.

The chairman of the benefit, Jim Herauf, stated that the fundraiser was a way to bring people in to cover the cost of the medical expenses.

"We felt that they could certainly benefit from some additional funds to cover the costs because the insurance doesn't cover everything and lots of people don't understand that," Herauf said.

"INSURANCE DOESN'T COVER EVERYTHING AND A LOT OF PEOPLE DON'T UNDERSTAND THAT."

-Jim Herauf, benefit chairman

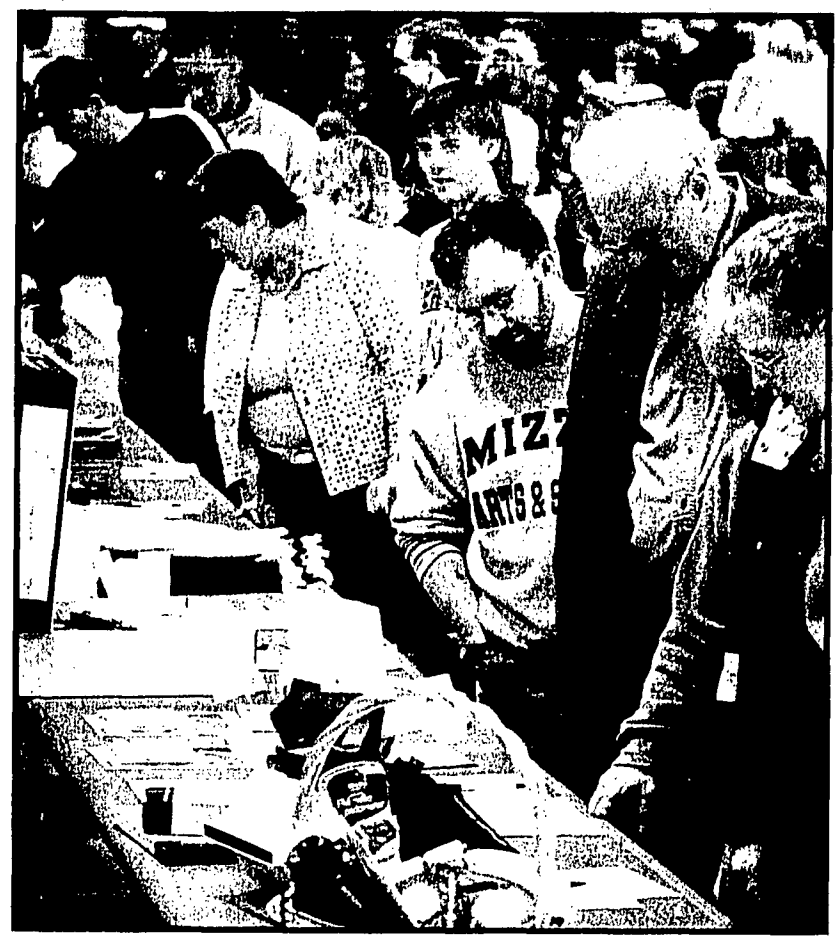


PHOTO BY ADAM WATSON/NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN
Community members browse through tables of items being auctioned during the Robbie Lade Benefit Auction Feb. 26 at the Maryville community center. The benefit's proceeds will go toward medical expenses for Robbie Lade.

Local program aims to increase adult literacy rates

BY TRAVIS SHIPPEN
NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

The Adult Education and Literacy Program, designed to prepare adults for GED testing, is currently seeking volunteers.

The program, geared towards increasing literacy rates among adults and to considerably increase their education level, is open to anyone 16 years of age and older who is not presently enrolled in school.

Participants must also have less than a high school education or its equivalent or be speakers of English as a second language.

Most colleges and employers accept a GED certificate as the equivalent to a high school diploma.

According to the Division of Career Education, 65 percent of GED test-takers plan to enter a college, university, trade or technical school or business school the year after they receive their GED.

Cathy Flummerfelt, one of the program's instructors, said the program depends heavily upon volunteers, and help from the community would be welcomed.

"Volunteers can make or break a program. A lot of people need individual help," Flummerfelt said.

Ashley Sawyer, one of the program's students, considers the program a lifesaver.

"If it wasn't here it would be hard to get an education and go on with my life," Sawyer said.

Anybody can volunteer with one phone call explaining their interest.

The GED exam takes about seven hours to complete and includes sections of reading, mathematics, social studies, science and writing skills.

For more information about becoming a volunteer contact Linda Stephens at 582-5615.

The program located in the Thompson-Ringgold building in rooms 114 A-B, offers the following open hours: Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., and Tuesday, Thursday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Travis Shippen can be contacted at 562-1224 or s256762@mail.nwmissouri.edu

Council inks contract with Kansas developer, funding timetable extended

DENNIS SHARKEY
NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

Monday, city council members inked an agreement with D. J. Christie, the developer for the Villaggio Town Center project, but not without controversy.

The change in Missouri law may back the timetable for the Tax Increment Financing project from 12 to 15 years, according to Christie's attorneys.

The law allows public safety tax districts to retain between 50-100 percent of property tax revenues due them. The revenue would cut roughly 10 percent of the bond revenues, causing the additional three years.

Maryville Mayor Mike Thompson and council members were divided at how the city's lawyer, Gary Anderson, and Christie's attorney, Grice, could overlook such an agreement.

How could a bonding company, two lawyers miss this?" Thompson said. "The blame lies somewhere

and I'm blaming you guys.

"Why are we just now hearing about this? We should have had this information."

According to Grice, 90 percent of safety taxing districts are not even aware of the state law and it really has not been an issue until recently.

Both Anderson and Grice said the figures they have are only for the Hy-Vee and Dollar General stores.

They also added they have a letter of intent from a national chain store, and the revenues generated could be greater and the bond could be repaid more quickly than expected.

The Nodaway County Ambulance Board is aware of the law, and scheduled a meeting with city manager Matt Chesnut to discuss the issue.

Ambulance board member Scott Walk said the board has mixed feelings about TIF, but no opinions appear set in stone because of the board's unfamiliarity with TIF but they look forward to meeting with Chesnut.

The council also tabled phase two of the project, the portion aimed at renovating the abandoned Wal-Mart building. Christie is currently trying to acquire the property; approving the contract would prematurely start the project's time clock.

Open house identifies trouble in North Nodaway schools

Renovations hinge on voters' approval of \$800,000 bond

BY SEAN COMER
NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

The North Nodaway R-VI school district wants Nodaway County to lend a hand in renovating two buildings in need of maintenance.

The district held an open house Feb. 26 at North Nodaway Junior-Senior High and North Nodaway Elementary in hopes of gaining support for the \$800,000 bond issue on the April 5 ballot.

District officials estimate they will need a 59-cent tax levy to cover the renovations—a 21-cent increase from the 2004-2005 debt service levy.

North Nodaway Junior-Senior High School in Hopkins plans to replace the currently water-damaged, wooden floor in the older of the school's two gymnasiums with an all-purpose surface.

There are also plans to add a

commons area to the east side of the gym, allowing more convenient access and efficient placement for event attendees and easier placement of concession stands.

According to Superintendent Joan Bolon, the renovations will open up the gym to a greater range of uses and allows North Nodaway to keep pace with other districts.

North Nodaway Junior-Senior Principal Jay Slight said the new court also absorbs shocks better and won't be damaged or scratched by chairs.

"It increases the space we have for our kids," Bolon said. "Putting a new floor down allows our students to have access to that facility for different competitions; not only sports, but also music."

The water damage to the current floor resulted from improperly installed drains in the school's kitchen. The district also plans to replace the drains.

The bond would also help finance the construction of a new vocational agriculture building, which could also house technology for a computer lab.

The current agriculture building was originally built in 1949 and soaks up a great deal of energy, according to Bolon.

"It would save electricity on heating and cooling, and make it much more energy-efficient by replacing it," Bolon said.

In addition, North Nodaway Elementary in Pickering would also benefit from the proposed bond issue.

North Nodaway Elementary Principal Dana Nally said plans for the Pickering building include a new ceiling for the kitchen, retrofitting the roof with a north-sloped support system to improve water drainage and re-sealing some of the brick of the building to prevent moisture leakage.

If the bond issue passes, renovations will begin immediately and be completed by the end of summer.

For more information, Nodaway County residents can contact Bolon at (660) 778-3411. Sean Comer can be contacted at 562-1224 or s250622@mail.nwmissouri.edu

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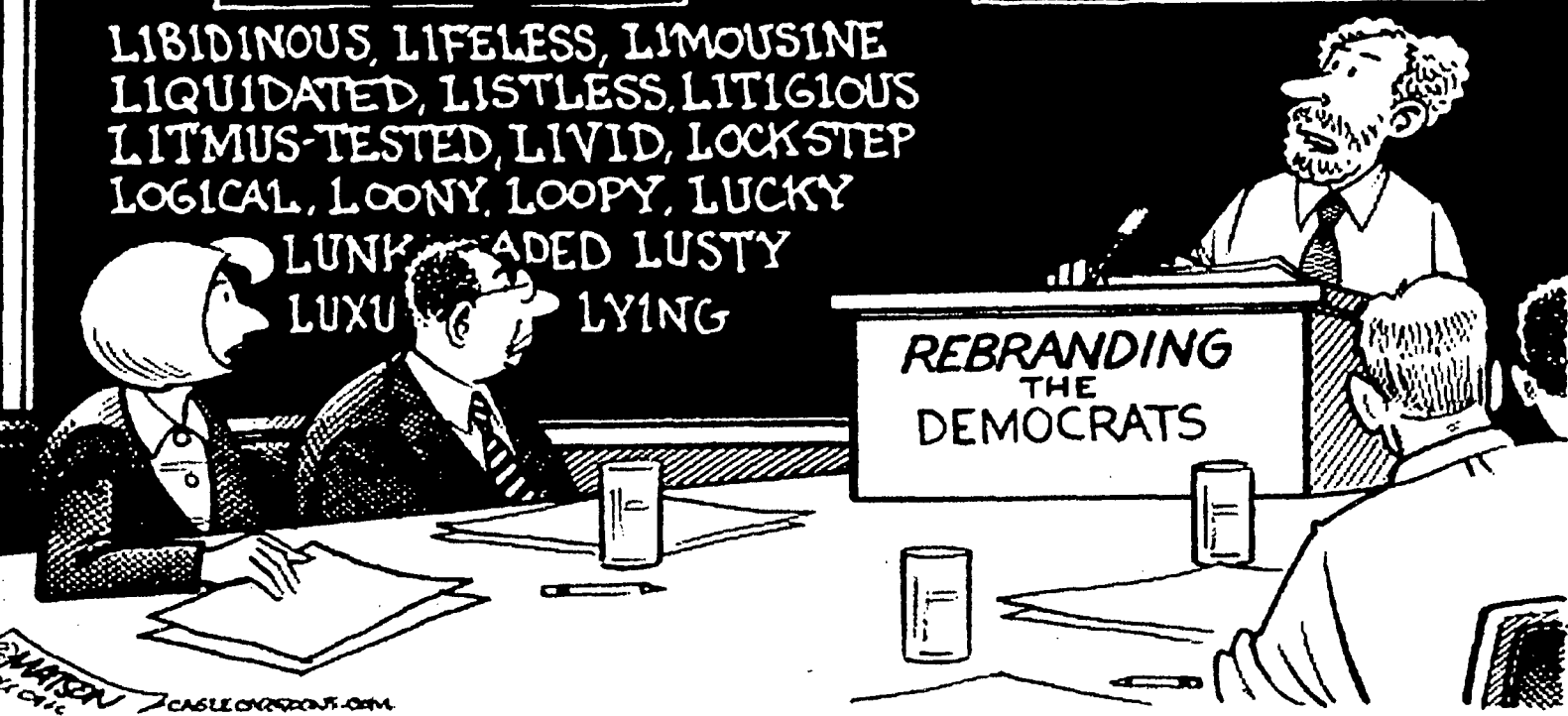
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"LET'S FACE IT, THERE IS NO GOOD 'L' WORD FOR THE 'L' WORD!"

Our View

Funding fiasco

Students need to speak up regarding the bill threatening to cut off college health center funding

While the University provides funding for such things as the "American Dream Grant" to help students go to college, a piece of legislation ironically surfaced in the Missouri House of Representatives proposing possible hurdles for others.

House Bill 275 hopes to halt state appropriations to all university health centers, which would mean increased costs to patients and possibly the closure of health centers around the nation.

If this bill passes, students with no health insurance will be left with nowhere to turn; average students can't afford going to local medical clinics, and the health center on campus, which served as their safety net, has been pulled out from underneath them.

University Medical Director Gerald Wilmes attempted to stay optimistic in an article in last week's issue of *The Missourian* when he stated, "We will continue to keep serving the students (if the bill is passed)."

The reality? The health center will most likely be unable to continue to serve students because it will be forced to close down. The only edge the health center currently has is the reduced prices it can offer students because of state appropriations. Why would students lacking health insurance go to a health center when medical clinics cost the same amount?

Another stipulation the bill proposes prohibits students registering for school without health insurance. This should send up a thousand red flags: this is yet another roadblock possibly preventing more students from not attending college. The real question we beg to ask is, What could be the motivation for cutting off funds to a service benefiting students on a daily basis? Maybe, more importantly, where the money go?

Some students complain about how the health center isn't enough, there aren't enough people staffed or it isn't worth the money. Obviously, those students have never used a health center's services. A medical center's. They are very comparable but at least with the health center, the prices are at a reduced rate so health care is attainable for all.

Maybe those complaining are students with the luxury of health insurance and don't know what it's like to watch their parents pay off mounting medical bills.

Maybe it's not. Maybe it's the students without insurance who need service because they can't afford to go to the doctor's office but begin to feel the service for granted.

Whatever the reason, one thing remains certain. If health centers cease to exist on college campuses, students will be affected.

We urge each student who is not to go to the doctor because they don't have health insurance, or the health center as their sole source of medical care, to write to your legislators now. Voice your concerns about House Bill 275 and what it means to have the health center on campus. Because if you don't speak up for yourself concerning this important to you, who will?

Conservatives deserve a voice, too

My View



Sean Comer
Missourian Reporter

the top of their lungs, guess what: he doesn't have to be "yours." Until someone provides concrete proof otherwise, Bush won the popular and electoral votes. To even run a race that close, much less win, more than a few people must share Bush's views.

Clearly, not being "your president" doesn't change who won the election.

I vehemently denounce gun control legislation as a means of punishing my fellow law-abiding, responsible gun owners and curtailing our rights in order to compensate for the actions of criminals. Criminals deserve to be punished, and victims deserve retribution—but not at the expense of the innocent.

I support our operations in Iraq. Progress has risen from the sacrifices of our troops, regardless of weapons that did or did not exist. Dispute this: We defeated a tyrant. Iraq took the first steps towards democracy. I call that a plus.

I don't understand why many feel the need to shield every religion from exclusion and promote understanding of every faith except the

one practiced by the majority of Americans who practice organized religion: Christianity.

I have no problems with gay marriage, but will never support "hate-crime" legislation deeming a crime more severely punishable if committed against a minority. Equality doesn't mean it's worse for a white man to kill a black man than to kill a fellow Caucasian.

I define affirmative action as sanctioned discrimination, not "equal opportunity." America would deem a United Caucasian College Fund as racist, a step backwards in race relations. The same people nod approvingly at special scholarships available solely to target minorities.

If somebody out there finds any of the above opinions offensive, I really do not care. These are the views seldom heard. I dare anyone to write in with an original opinion to the contrary regarding any view expressed above. That won't be easy; we hear all the views dissenting the above expressed opinions week-in, week-out, usually voiced by another *Missourian* writer.

Week after week, this page resorts to Kick-the-Conservative. I blame

myself, partially, for not being the one to draw the line in the sand sooner. Our readers deserve balance, not one side continuously bashing the other. The opinions on this page don't even resemble both sides snapping at each others' throats. It resembles one side beating down the other and the beaten side not even putting up a fight.

I'm fed up with treating leftist opinions with the respect due to their First Amendment rights, only to be met with blanket generalizations and hateful bitterness when said liberals find out I'm about 90 percent conservative—and a Bush-voter to boot. If the game must be played this way, that's fine. Let's play.

Call me anything you want: racist, bigot, idiot—even try taking the time to come up with an original insult, since I have yet to hear many original thoughts from most of the liberals I've met. I will defend my convictions to the end, and for the most part, minus the bitterness many liberals have exhibited since November. I stand for what I do for a reason. I only apologize for not standing up sooner.

Missourian Backtalk



"Where does the writer for the Stroller get off saying that Missourians are not just content with being the 'Show Me State' now they want to be 'Show Me or I'll Blow Your Head off State'? I don't know what kind of sick experience this poor bastard had with concealed weapons, but he really needs to get his head out of his ass and read up on the Missouri concealed weapons law. It's not about blowing people's heads off when they have paranoia or them feeling like they have to carry their gun, it's about giving people the freedom to have their own deal."

WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR OPINION ON ANY SUBJECT IN THE NEWSPAPER. CALL THE MISSOURIAN BACKTALK LINE AT 562-1980 OR MAIL YOUR LETTER TO THE EDITOR TO: THE NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN, 6 WELLS HALL, MARYVILLE, MO, 64468.

Controversial cartoon debate should be celebrated

The pain was so great "you forget the milk that you have been fed from the breast of your mother." Maher Arar, Canadian, citing an Arabic expression while describing his treatment at the hands of his Syrian captors (Oct. 2003).

It seemed fitting that Eugene Delacroix's *Liberty Leading the People* (1830) should act as the backdrop for a discussion about freedom of thought and expression. In 1830, French King Charles X signed into law several measures that included the dismissal of the National Assembly in favor of a system controlled by the aristocracy and the suspension of the freedom of press. In response to these and other abuses of power,

the working class and the middle class joined forces and instigated the removal of Charles X and the creation of a constitutional monarchy under Louis-Philippe. Delacroix wrote of the events, "I have undertaken a modern subject, a barricade, and if I have not fought for my country, at least I will paint for her." It is through this lens that I first viewed the political cartoon that ran in the Feb. 17 issue of *The Missourian*.

I was struck by the irony of R.J. Matson's "Official Portrait of the Secretary of State's Triumphant Return to France" (Matson has an impressive resume that includes not only circulation in *The Missourian*, but also *The New Yorker*, *The Nation*, *Roll*

Call and Rolling Stone). It was not the bare-breasted Secretary of State nor the ten-gallon-hatted sheriff George W. Bush that captured by attention—it was the word LIBERTE etched into the facade of the tower in the background and the nearly lost document titled ABU GHRAIB in the foreground. To be honest, I gave little thought to the cartoon beyond that until last Friday afternoon when I finally had a chance to read *The Missourian*. As usual, I read the Stroller first and then proceeded to the op/ed page. I was not surprised to see a letter referring to Matson's cartoon. I was, however, surprised by the focus of the letter. But after some thought, I came to the realization

that that is the point of a political cartoon and how fitting that these conversations should take place in the shadow of Delacroix's *Liberty*. This difference in interpretation should be celebrated, particularly at a university. I thank *The Missourian* and its readers for reminding me of that, and providing me with the curiosity to consider my own beliefs about liberty and what that means to me vis-a-vis our new foreign policy stance and the values that necessarily provide the foundation for those beliefs and actions.

MATT JOHNSON
INSTRUCTOR, HISTORY, HUMANITIES,
PHILOSOPHY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

Your View

What do you most like/dislike about living on campus?



"I just like the company of living in the dorms."

CHRIS HANSON
PRE-ZOOLOGY



"It is very close to the college and there are very small rooms. It was good to live in the dorms, because you learn many things."

HERAMB ARORA
INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS



"I dislike the rules very much. I like living on a floor with all girls and meeting a lot of new friends."

WENDY SHOEMYER
POLITICAL SCIENCE



"I don't like that they treat us as kids. I don't like the rules they have, either; they are unreasonable."

SHANAY HERRON
PSYCHOLOGY

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University name change makes it through Senate, on to Blunt

HEATHER J. CARLSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) - After nearly two decades of struggle, Southwest Missouri State University will get its new name.

The House voted overwhelmingly Tuesday to drop "Southwest" from the school's name, allowing it to become Missouri State University. The 120-vote House vote follows previous Senate approval and sends the bill to Gov. Matt Blunt, who has pledged to sign the name change would take effect Aug. 28.

Southwest Missouri State University President John Kaiser said he was thrilled by the bill's passage and particularly thanked Blunt — a Springfield native — for his support.

"We are very grateful to the team that got it done, and that team was captained by the governor, and he did some courageous and effective things," Kaiser said.

Blunt's staff pushed for the bill's passage during a 14-hour Senate filibuster last month that stretched straight through the night. It ended after supporters received University of Missouri President Elson Floyd's approval of a compromise allowing the Springfield school to have the new name in exchange for accepting some restrictions.

"This bill ensures that the University of Missouri will continue to be the state's premier land grant institution as well as the state's premier research institution," Blunt said in a statement Tuesday. "I also believe that

the name of Missouri State University will more accurately reflect SMSU's current role."

Backers of the name change argue Missouri State University better describes the school's statewide mission in public affairs, its ranking as the state's second-largest campus and its recent expansion of graduate degree programs. They also contend the name change will attract more students, staff, donors and businesses — boosting the economy of both the Springfield area and the state.

Opposition to the name change has typically come from supporters of the University of Missouri-Columbia. They contend it eventually could mean more funding for the Springfield school at the expense of the University of Missouri and other regional

universities. They also claim the name "Missouri State University" rightly belonged to the Columbia campus.

During House debate, Rep. Bryan Pratt voiced frustration that Floyd signed onto the bill.

"President Floyd and the curators, I think, dropped the ball and turned their back on the rich heritage of the University of Missouri," said Pratt, R-Blue Springs, an alumnus of the Columbia campus.

Floyd gave his blessing to a compromise bill that restricts the renamed Missouri State University from seeking the land grant and research designations held by the Columbia campus. It also prohibits the Springfield school from duplicating professional programs offered by the University of Missouri, such as training

for doctors and lawyers. And the bill says the new name does not entitle the Springfield school to more money.

University of Missouri system spokesman Joe Moore said now that the name change issue has been decided, the university hopes lawmakers will address other concerns.

"We hope we will now be able to focus on the major challenges facing higher education—one of the most important being adequate funding," Moore said.

Name change supporters in the House successfully batted away attempts by opponents to amend the bill. One defeated proposal would have renamed the Springfield school Missouri State University at Southwest Missouri. Another failed amendment would have made the name change contingent upon Southwest Missouri State University maintaining a graduation rate above 50 percent for four consecutive academic years.

The legislation also would make several less controversial name changes. The word "college" would be replaced with "university" for Missouri Western State in St. Joseph and Harris-Stowe State in St. Louis, and the city designator would be dropped from Missouri Southern State University-Joplin.

The bill also would let the Board of Governors at Central Missouri State University choose whether to change the Warrensburg school's name to the University of Central Missouri.

HACKERS: Credit card numbers revealed online

Continued from 1A

The Computer Crimes and Security survey—a survey polling various U.S. corporations, financial institutions and government agencies—found that 80 percent of its respondents suffered financial losses because of computer breaches.

In addition, 223 of the companies surveyed experienced losses totaling \$455.8 million.

None of the customers posted on the web site reported fraudulent charges to their credit cards, Herndon said.

Nevertheless, Cook says she does everything possible to protect her customers' safety.

"I just feel sorry, deep in my heart, for these people," she said. "Hopefully, it won't happen again. We put on a double lock and two firewalls. If they can get through that they are just good hackers."

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COMA: Allergic reaction leaves student in hospital

Continued from 1A

Reed believes her physical therapy will soon be reduced to two days a week.

"My hands aren't working as well and I still have my tremors in my legs when I'm tired," Reed said. "I lost a lot of oxygen to my brain and that has impaired my eyesight. That will be last thing that will be fixed."

Although Reed had the allergies her whole life, she previously never suffered from an attack this severe.

Reed has been hospitalized and in physical therapy for the majority of her second trimester at Northwest. She plans to return, ready to attend classes on campus, next fall.

DREAM: Student gets chance

Continued from 1A

Another big reason for Sheppard's coming to Northwest was his relationship with Northwest President Dean Hubbard.

Sheppard's grandmother lives near Hubbard's summer house in Golden; the two have known each other since Sheppard was 7 or 8 years old, and he is a friend of Hubbard's grandson, Charlie.

Sheppard said Hubbard provides an excellent support mechanism, and his parents both sleep a lot better at night knowing that Hubbard is providing that.

"In high school you depend on

adults, although not as much as some would say, but if I need advice or need help I can go and ask him and he's really supportive," Sheppard said. "It really puts an ease on my parents knowing that I'm up here and that he (Hubbard) is up here."

Sheppard said talking with Hubbard and his family helped him decide, Northwest was the place for him to be. He also said taking a couple of trips to the campus solidified his choice.

"I've been up here a lot and I came to some of the games," Sheppard said. "I just fell in love with the campus."

ARSON: Car catches fire Tuesday morning

Continued from 1A

cars in the fleet, will probably be totaled by the their insurance company.

Although officials believe it was an act of arson, they won't know for sure until investigators test samples from the car to determine the exact origin of the blaze.

The officers on duty at the time saw no one fleeing from the scene, and there were no video cameras around that could help investigators.

Green and other officials believe the incident is not related to other recent vandalism on campus; they are more of a random crime, and this is not.

Maryville public safety director Keith Wood said gathering information in this case will be difficult.

"Arson is one of the most difficult crimes to investigate," Wood said. "Most of the time, whatever evidence you're trying to gather has been destroyed by the fire or by the putting out of the fire."

The Missouri Division of Fire Safety offers a \$1000 reward to any information leading to the arrest and conviction of any person or persons responsible for the incident. They ask anyone with information to contact the Missouri arson hotline at 800-39-ARSON or contact Campus Safety at 660-562-1254.

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Worldwide flight presses on

BY JOHN MILBURN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SALINA, Kan. (AP) —Millionaire adventurer Steve Fossett decided Wednesday to press ahead with his attempt to fly around the world solo without refueling, despite a serious problem with the plane's fuel system.

Fossett and his flight crew agreed Wednesday afternoon to keep the GlobalFlyer in the air rather than abandoning the record-setting attempt and turning back for a landing in Japan.

He was heading east over the Pacific Ocean, and the team expects to decide Wednesday night after reaching Hawaii whether to continue on to the U.S. mainland, some seven hours away.

"I'm better than I was yesterday," Fossett told reporters as he headed into daylight east of Japan. "It improves the mood, also. I'm hopeful this is all going to work out."

Fossett discovered the problem with the fuel system of the custom-built plane early Wednesday. Once the GlobalFlyer reaches Hawaii, a critical transfer of fuel from outer tanks to the plane's center booms will be complete and the team will know more precisely how much fuel is left.

Project manager Paul Moore said fuel sensors in the 13 tanks differ from readings of how quickly the plane's single jet engine was burning fuel. Moore said the crew had been forced to assume that 2,600 pounds of the original 18,100 pounds of fuel "disappeared" early in the flight.



ASSOCIATED PRESS
John Krakow, left, chief project engineer for the Virgin Atlantic GlobalFlyer, and Kevin Stass, mission control director, listen as Paul Moore, project director, talks with Steve Fossett and Richard Branson during a conference.

It was not clear whether the problem was with the instruments that track how much fuel remains or if some fuel had been lost because of a leak, Fossett's team said.

"This is a huge setback," Fossett said from the plane, according to a statement issued by his staff. "I have not that high a level of confidence at this point."

Fossett, 60, still might be able to finish the flight on his original path, if a tail wind in the jet stream remains strong enough to push him across the Pacific.

Before the fuel problem was discovered, Fossett had estimated he would complete the 23,000-mile journey at midday Thursday. He took off Monday from Salina.

Fossett already holds the record for flying solo around the globe in a balloon, as well as dozens of other aviation and sailing records.

The project is being financed by Virgin Atlantic founder Sir Richard Branson, a longtime friend and fellow adventurer.

The first nonstop global flight without refueling was made in 1986 by Jeana Yeager and Dick Rutan, brother of GlobalFlyer designer Burt Rutan.

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The first nonstop global flight without refueling was made in 1986 by Jeana Yeager and Dick Rutan, brother of GlobalFlyer designer Burt Rutan.

PEN PAL: Still writing after four decades

Continued from 1A

"She just went on and on and on about them. Everything was green and she just couldn't get over that."

Even after Weir's trip to Missouri, the two women communicate to one another on a near day-to-day basis. Through e-mails, phone calls or the occasional letter.

Since we've written this many years of my life I just know that probably as long as she's alive and I'm alive, we'll be in contact," McKim said.

Sitting in her living room, McKim speaks about her pen pal as though she was her sister. She holds a purple card with the words "Joy To The World" inscribed across the top, which McKim received from Weir this past Christmas.

"With much love and thank you for the awesome time I had with you," Weir writes. "I'd be lie-ing if I said I didn't miss you. (I was) just not able to do everything. Maybe next time?"

Or certainly in heaven!"

Even after scribbling millions of words to each other over the years, McKim says her greatest moment with Weir was when the two stood together to admire the green, rolling hills of Missouri.

"(When she left) it was a funny feeling," McKim said. "She kept saying she wanted to come back, and yet it's (been) so many years this time, (where) will I be in 40 more years?"

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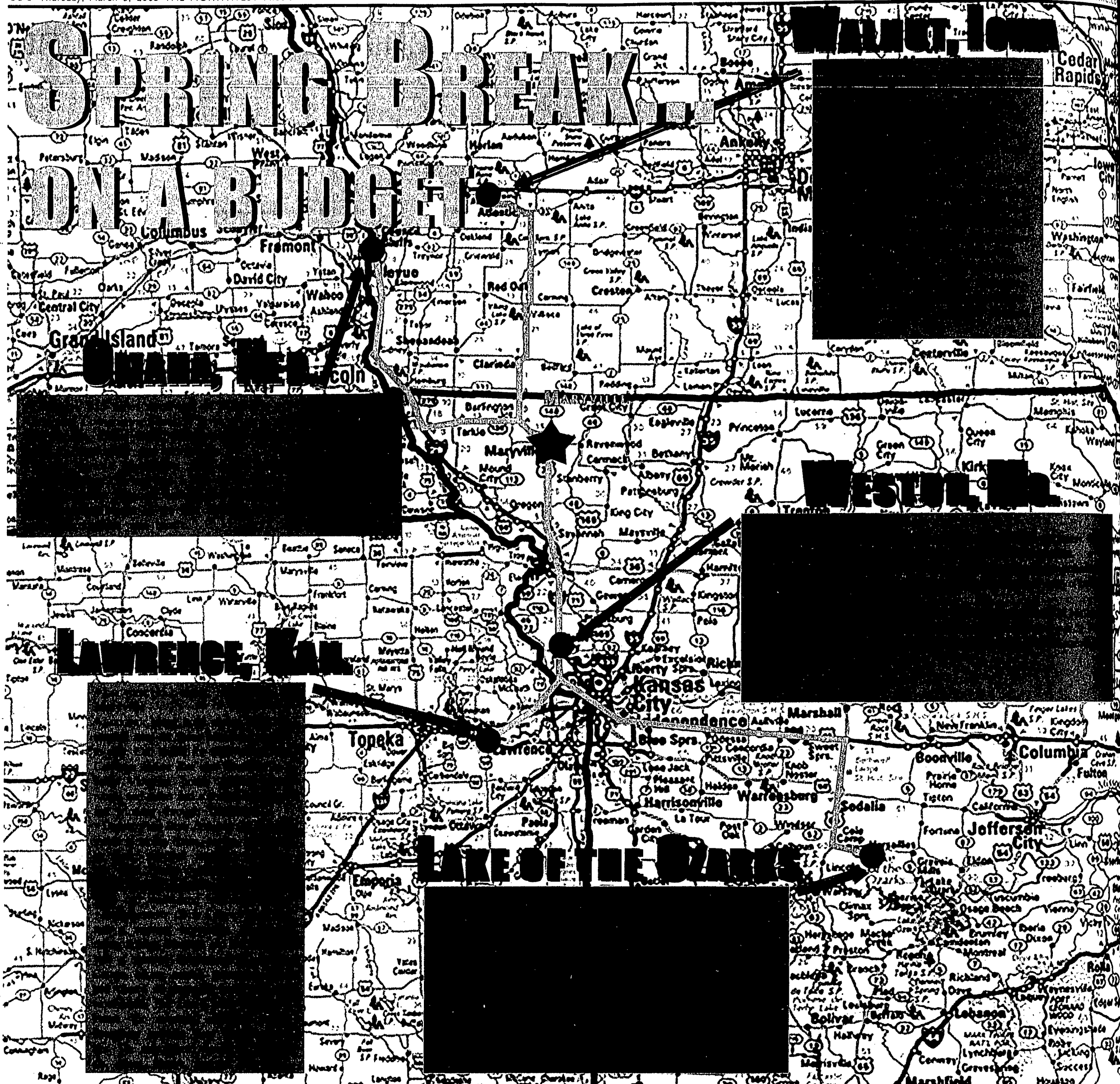
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Spoofohounds have Columbia on the brain

BY JONDA FRENCH
MISSOURIAN

Maryville Spoofohounds moved one step closer to Columbia, in a dominating 65-17 victory over the Plattsburg Tigers, Tuesday at LeBlond High School in St. Joseph.

The Hounds started off with a strong performance, never looking back, scoring the first 15 points and leading by 15 at the halfway mark through the first quarter. The Hounds finished the game 34-7 in the second quarter. Spoofohounds were up 23-9 and had time almost held a 20 point advantage with a score of 36-17. Coach Mike Wilmes was pleased with his team's efforts. "It was a good team effort," said Kuwitsky. "I'm happy to see some balanced scoring." Wilmes led Maryville scorers with 17 points, followed by Evan Wilmes with 15; Syd

Brisbane added 14 points as well. "Everyone played well," senior Josh Wilmes said. "Evan (Wilmes) came out and did a good job."

The 'Hounds also hit 18 of their 24 free throws for a 75 percentage.

Maryville now stands at 20-5 and plays LeBlond in the semifinals at 7:30 p.m. tonight. LeBlond played Hamilton Tuesday night, beating them 54-31. This isn't the first time Maryville and LeBlond met this season. Maryville pulled out a win at LeBlond in December. However, Kuwitsky definitely thinks this game will be different.

"I think both teams are better," said Kuwitsky. "I think it will be a tough game and playing LeBlond at their home, will add to the challenge."

Playing LeBlond previously helps the team know what they need to do, according to please see 'HOUNDS' page 3B



Regionally-ranked tennis teams start season with tripleheader

BY JON LE YOUNG
MISSOURIAN

The Northwest tennis team will finally have a chance to break out of Bearcat Arena and begin their season today in Topeka, Kan.

With the men's and women's teams facing off against Winona State, Colo. State (Colo.) and Southern State, the team will kick off their 2005 campaign.

For the Bearcats, it will be their first opportunity to compete against teams from the Central Region foes.

Every match is important because (they are regional teams). This is the only time we'll see some of these teams," head coach Mark Rosewell said. "Some of them are coming from a long ways away. We will designate the first weekend in March as that."

The women's squad comes off of a second place finish in the MIAA last season, where they fell to Washburn 5-4 in the finals.

Their season didn't end there however, the women qualified for their second-consecutive trip to the NCAA Division II national tennis tournament.

Junior Gena Lindsay leads the charge for the women this year. During the fall season, she qualified for the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) National Small College Championships.

Rosewell said the team can't always rely on Lindsay to carry them.

"Gina is going to have to play one and one doubles so she is going to be playing the best all the time," Rosewell said.

While the women can rely on the experience of veterans like Lindsey, the men don't enjoy that same luxury.

please see 'TENNIS' page 2B



PHOTO BY MATT FRYE/ NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

Freshman Britt Westman, right, walks to the plate as teammate, and brother, Ryley calls out commands from behind the plate. The brothers are in their first year playing together at the collegiate level. Britt starts at first base while Ryley takes the pitches as catcher.

Baseball Brothers

BY JEROME BOETTCHER
NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

When freshman Britt Westman has a problem or needs help on the baseball field, he simply takes a look down the first base line.

There, he'll find his brother Ryley just 90 feet away.

Freshman Britt Westman patrols first base, while sophomore and older sibling Ryley Westman handles the pitches behind home plate as catcher.

"I'm real comfortable talking to him like any other player or any other coach," Britt said. "I look up to him, I feel comfortable talking to him; he's helped me out throughout the year."

Ryley was the only freshman starter last year for the Bearcats as he hit nine home runs, knocked in 18 runs and recorded a .248 batting average.

Britt, a graduate of Smithville High School, already impacted the team and through five games he currently carries a .333 batting average and has knocked in three runs.

"I always try to remember a player's first career at-bat," said teammate Kyle Gallagher, who homered in his first career at-bat. "I remember Britt struck-out looking, I know he doesn't strike out a lot. But he actually rebounded from that first at-bat pretty well, he's got a pretty good career ahead of him."

The duo focuses on the team out on the field instead of if one is

performing better than the other.

"When we were younger it was real competitive but we grew out of that," Britt said. "It's teamwork now, playing together; there's no competitiveness between us now."

Head coach Darin Loe said their chemistry on the field fits what any coach would want with any set of brothers.

"There's more joking around with them," Loe said. "But at the same time, when you have brothers on the team you definitely have to have the right fit of brothers. They're so close as brothers, and as a family, that they want each other to do well and they want the team to do well as well."

The brothers' relationship even affects their teammates.

"Having Britt over there at first base and a great stick in the lineup; he's got a great future ahead of him as well as Ryley behind the dish," Gallagher said.

For the two brothers the season continues, as the team finishes up their games at the Armstrong Atlantic Invitational in Savannah, Ga., this week. From there they will see what they can do as a duo in the MIAA.

Loe says that neither brother should feel pushed to outdo the other this season, and both just try to do their best for the team.

"I don't think there's pressure for either one of those kids, both of them have been through (the pressure)," Loe said. "Both of them are such great competitors that I don't see them adding any pressure on themselves just because Ryley has been here for a year."

Baseball falls below .500 mark for the season

BY ANDY TIMKO
NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

The Northwest baseball team traveled to Georgia over the weekend, looking to add a couple more wins to their schedule.

After having two games postponed in the first tournament of the season, the 'Cats headed to the Peach State on Friday with a 1-2 record to compete in the Savannah Tournament.

Wednesday, the 'Cats faced an undefeated Armstrong Atlantic team, the hometown favorite hosting the tournament.

The game remained scoreless until the fifth inning when the Pirates figured out Justin Hildebrand's pitching, scoring six runs. The Pirates added another run in the eighth inning to win the game 7-0.

"We were facing their number one pitcher who was a quality right-hand pitcher," head coach Darin Loe said. "I think we came out a

little flat after two big emotional wins."

The Pirates' Chase Leatherwood kept the 'Cats at bay and pitched a complete game. The junior pitcher only allowed two hits and struck out 11 batters improving his record to 5-0.

Drew Metille was the lone Bearcat with a decent day at the plate going 2-4 on the day while the rest of the team only managed two hits.

The game against Queens College (N.Y.) scheduled on Sunday was cancelled; the third game in a nine-day period the 'Cats could not play.

On Monday, Northwest finally saw some action when they split a double-header against No. 26 Georgia College and State University.

"I thought we've been playing better and better as we've gone outside," Loe said. "I thought we played two great ball games against Georgia College and State in our last two wins."

Both seven-inning games were low scoring

affairs with the 'Cats losing the first game 4-6 and winning the second 6-5.

Northwest scored four runs in the final three innings of game 2 to notch the victory. Mike Babb and Pat Whitt each went 2-3 at the plate with 2 RBIs and Travis Fouts posted his first win of the season, allowing only one hit over three innings after replacing Alex Budden.

Northwest got another look at the Bobcats Tuesday afternoon, winning 9-7 in the nine-inning game. Jacob Taylor picked up his first win of the season while freshman Zach Weston picked up his the save of his career.

"It was a big win," Loe said. "It was a cold night and the bats finally woke up, had some big innings and scored a lot of runs. Anytime you can beat a team like that two out of three it's a great accomplishment for us."

The 'Cats play a double-header against Montevallo beginning at 11 a.m. Friday in Savannah before returning home.



PHOTO BY MATT FRYE/ NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

en Lakeb takes a cut during practice in Lamkin Activity Center last week. The softball is off to their best start in 12 seasons. They are back in action this weekend at Western.

Strong start for softball, travel to Western next

BY LIE MCDONOUGH
MISSOURIAN

The Northwest softball team opened their season with a 4-1 start—the best in Bearcat history.

Head coach Susan Anderson said. "I was really pleased with the past week's performance. It was a good starting foundation."

The women traveled to Springfield, Mo., over the weekend and competed in the Evansville tournament.

We were all happy with how beautiful the weather was this weekend for us to play," head coach Susan Anderson said. "I was really happy with how well the team and I performed, and I'm looking forward to the upcoming year."

John contributed six hits, walked three times and four RBIs at the tournament. The team defeated Concordia (Neb.), Arbor (Mich.) and Lindenwood on day one making that the best start since the 1993 season.

"I couldn't have been more pleased with how well we did," Anderson said. "The pitcher was good, the bunts and squeezes were good; I was just really excited."

On day two, the 'Cats beat the University of Missouri-St. Louis squad, but fell to Central Missouri State in the championship game 3-2.

"The key was bouncing back from play to play," Anderson said. "There was one error made, and they bounced right back from it. It was also about finishing the play and getting the last out."

Up next for the women is the Missouri Western Tournament March 5-6 in St. Joseph. Other teams involved include the University of Nebraska-Omaha, Truman State, Missouri Southern and Missouri Western.

"The team will get some experience playing conference teams," Anderson said. "By playing them so early in the season it gives us a chance to make an evaluation about where we're at right now."

Throwing towards a 3-peat

BY SETH WOODERSON
NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

The world of sports has always been a measure of fortitude; a gauge, of sorts, of just how far these athletes will push themselves to achieve glory.

This facet of athletic competition draws attention from so many different types of people. It seems everyone loves a story about an athlete who must overcome adversity or serious injury to attain that sweet taste of victory.

However, these athletes are not always so far away; one of them can be found at Northwest.

Clint Prange, a senior shot put and discus thrower for the Bearcat track team, was originally recruited as a dual-sport athlete.

Prange gained attention from both the Northwest football and the track and field programs when he won his second, straight Missouri Class 1 state discus title as well as a state discus record, which Prange still holds.

"We recruited him as a dual-sport athlete," track and field coach Richard Alsop said. "Then in the fall of 2000, during football, he suffered some back injuries...after football season he opted to give up football and just go for track."

At times, Prange regretted his decision.

"I had a lot of second thoughts about quitting football because it was something that I loved quite a bit," Prange said.

However, it turned out to be a very wise decision, as Prange won the outdoor national discus title as a sophomore.

"When I first came here I was a discus guy...coming from a 1A school you don't have a lot of coaching so it just came natural to me," Prange said.

As a junior, Prange added two indoor conference titles to his name in both the shot put and hammer throw.

"(Prange) qualified for nationals; then he started having trouble with his back again and didn't place," Alsop said.

Nevertheless, Prange won his second consecutive discus title in the outdoor season.

Prange's back injury would once again



PHOTO BY MATT FRYE/NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN
Senior Clint Prange practices last week at Bearcat Arena. Prange overcame a back injury and is currently fighting for his third track and field national championship.

resurface, forcing him to red-shirt for medical reasons.

Prange returned this season a fully healed graduate student working on his master's degree.

"He's well-rounded...he's won academic honors, he's been on the MIAA All-Academic team, he was voted second team Verizon Academic All-American and he's got a 4.0 in graduate school," Alsop said.

Upon his return this season, Prange broke the Northwest shot put record with a heave of 62' 6 1/2", and recently added another indoor conference champion-

ship title to the list last weekend at the conference meet.

Just last week he was honored as the MIAA Field Athlete of the Week.

As for the rest of the season, Prange

hopes to once again be a national champion in both the discus as well as the shot put.

Regarding his future plans Prange said that the 2008

Olympics were definitely on the horizon.

"Hopefully, God willing, I'm able to continue to throw at a competitive level after college and stay involved in it some way, somehow, but who knows," Prange said.

"HOPEFULLY, GOD WILLING, I'M ABLE TO CONTINUE TO THROW AT A COMPETITIVE LEVEL AFTER COLLEGE AND STAY INVOLVED IN IT SOME WAY, SOMEHOW, BUT WHO KNOWS."

-Clint Prange
Indoor Track

Track teams send handful to Nationals

BY AARON NELSON
NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

Boston is a town famous for many things; such as the Cheers bar, Fenway Park and Boston Garden where Celtic greats like Larry Bird played clad in green and white. Starting March 11, the Celtics won't be the only team in town to proudly wear the green and white, as the bearcats travel to Bean town to represent Northwest in the NCAA Division II National Track and Field Championships.

However, both squads should not get ahead of themselves. They traveled back to Warrensburg, Mo. for the second time in two weeks to compete in the MIAA Championships Feb 25-26, where the women's team had a bit of a rough start.

"We had a shaky day on Friday and I think it took us a little while to become focused," head coach Scott Lorek said.

Day two of the competition saw improvement, and Lorek felt his team took more away from the meet than some quality times.

"We had some good things happen, but I feel like we learned a lot and I think it was a good growing experience for our team on how to be better prepared for a conference meet," Lorek said.

Some of the bright spots were

found in junior Alisha Samuel and senior Steph Suntken. Samuel took first in the 60m dash with a time of 7.67. Her preliminary time set a conference meet record for that event. She also fared well in the 200m, with a third place finish at 25.45.

Suntken garnered a fourth place finish in the 800m, which may be overlooked by most, but not by Lorek.

"(Suntken's) time is deceiving because it's a very tactical kind of race, and she ran it very smart," Lorek said.

Three major factors determined the sixth-place finish of the women's squad, and all of them can be corrected or improved over time. The first came in the form of sickness.

"We had the flu thing that hurt us; like Ashley Grosse wasn't even able to run the 5,000(meters), and that hurt us," Lorek said.

Secondly, the teams' size, in terms of lack of participants, creates challenges for the squad. There were several events in which the 'Cats didn't have any entries.

Size is an issue that Lorek hopes will be helped with recruiting.

"We've had a lot of kids in for visits (and we've sent out) a lot of letters (and made) a lot of phone calls, and probably a month and a half from now we'll know where we

are. As of right now I think pretty good."

The third factor contributing their sixth place finish had to do with their confidence level.

"I think that as we go into outdoor season the group needs to know that they are capable of being a very good team, and sometimes don't know if they're convincing that themselves," Lorek said.

Freshman Jeff Kangar ran the 800-meter in 1:59.08, in his first appearance at the MIAA championships.

At the MIAA conference championships senior Clint Prange took first in the shot put, with a throw of 59'05" 1/2. The second place finish fell four inches below Prange. Prange is the only Bearcat to qualify nationally without help of the provisional process.

In the men's triple jump, Dan Calbert won the other first place finish for the men's team with a mark of 48'08" 3/4. Sophomore E.J. Faulkner also performed well, totals this weekend helped strengthen his case to go to nationals.

After nationals, both teams will have some time off before starting the indoor season. The men begin the indoor season with the University of Texas-San Antonio Relays March 19, while the women kick off their season at the Louisiana Classic in Lafayette, La., March 19.

TENNIS: Teams start season in Topeka

CONTINUED from 1B

The youthful group cannot boast a single upperclassman.

"We have two sophomores and five freshmen, so you can see how young we are," Rosewell said. "But they are talented, they are talented, so we will see."

Pablo Acebedo returns to the squad

for his second season and ranks in the top five regionally for singles and doubles play.

This weekend the opportunity to play outside will be something previously few and far between for both squads.

Throughout the entire preseason, the squads practiced outside only once. With

a forecast of nice weather for the weekend, Rosewell feels the squad can thrive.

"I think we will play outside weekend if the weather holds up. The better for us," Rosewell said. "We more of an international-type team does better playing outside."

2005 NORTHWEST TENNIS HOME SCHEDULE

Mar. 8 Missouri Valley Men 3 p.m.

Mar. 11 Nebraska-Kearney Both 3 p.m.

Mar. 12 Southwest Baptist Women 11:30 a.m.

Mar. 16 Rockhurst Both 3 p.m.

Mar. 17 Midwestern (Tex.) Both 2 p.m.

Mar. 19 South Dakota Women 9 a.m.

Mar. 19 Missouri Southern Women 2 p.m.

Mar. 20 Emporia State Both 1 p.m.

Mar. 21 Southwest Baptist Men 1 p.m.

Apr. 1 Northeastern St. Women 8 a.m.

Apr. 12 Washburn Men 3 p.m.

Apr. 20 Graceland Both 3 p.m.

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Megan Hamilton scored 18 points and hit four 3-pointers Saturday in their season finale victory against Missouri-Rolla.

Megan Hamilton

Travis Gardner hit two big 3-pointers to help the Bearcats pull away Saturday in their victory over Missouri-Rolla. He finished with eight points.

Travis Gardner

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Eagles end girls' season early

SETH HERROLD
NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

The Maryville Spoofhounds' basketball season abruptly came to an end Monday night when they fell 29-27 to the LeBlond Eagles in district play.

The 'Hounds senior guard Kelli Dawson had a chance to win the game, but her buzzer-beating three pointer rimmed out.

"The whole game I wasn't hitting, but I just kept thinking maybe next time," Dawson said. "We played right up to the end like we always do and it just didn't work."

The 'Hounds were seeded fourth, but fell to the fifth seeded Maryville in the first round of the district tournament.

"We've struggled with turnovers all year," coach Adam Willard said. "We haven't played enough of these games yet. Next year I really doubt we will have 25 or 30 turnovers."

LeBlond won the opening tip and struck first on a driving layup. Maryville quickly answered, however, when junior Kim Wolfer scored in the post. The 'Hounds could find scoring tough in the first quarter, however.

Defensively they were able to hold LeBlond in check despite giving up several open lanes to the basket. And at quarter's end the 'Hounds clung to a 9-7 lead.

Willard sat leading scorers Dawson and Wolfer to start the second, but both returned to the court inside the first minute.

Despite the return of Dawson and Wolfer, LeBlond went on a 6-0 run in the middle of the quarter to get the LeBlond dominated crowd into the game and earn full momentum. Dawson gave the 'Hounds a spark at the four minute mark when she stole the ball and got it to Wolfer for the duce at the other end.

Another Wolfer lay-up late in the half gave the 'Hounds a 15-14 lead at the break. The lead was largely due to LeBlond's free throw shooting; they were 2-of-11 from the charity stripe.

LeBlond and Maryville continued to battle it out in the third quarter. Going into the fourth it was all tied up 21-21.

LeBlond's Alyssa Slater caught fire in the final quarter quickly knocking down two shots to edge ahead of the 'Hounds. Maryville fought back, staying right in the game with an offensive tip-in by sophomore Jaclyn Guess.

With a minute left, the 'Hounds trailed 29-27. A bad pass gave the ball to LeBlond who promptly gave it back on a traveling violation. Dawson missed a three and LeBlond again had possession, and control.

The 'Hounds quickly fouled, putting LeBlond on the line. Both free throws were missed and the 'Hounds had one last chance. Dawson's three did not fall at the buzzer, however, and the 'Hound's season slid to a stop.

Despite the win LeBlond was 4-18 on free throws, giving the 'Hounds great opportunities down the stretch to win.

"With a minute and a half left I still felt good about the game," Willard said. "All we had to do was come down, pass the ball and make a shot, and we have girls capable of doing that."

Wolfer, who led the 'Hounds offensively with nine points blamed the loss on LeBlond's zone defense.

"I don't think we did very well against the zone defense," she said. "Maybe if more teams would have done that against us we would have been better prepared."

The 'Hounds finished the season with a 10-16 record.

Senior Kelli Dawson said she is looking into playing college basketball, but isn't sure where she will end up.



FILE PHOTO

Kim Wolfer fights to get to the basket in a game earlier this season. The 'Hounds season came to an end Monday night in the 29-27 loss to LeBlond despite Wolfer's efforts. Maryville ended the season with a 10-16 record and loses two seniors for next year.

'HOUNDS: Boys' 2 wins away from district title

CONTINUED from 1B

Playing LeBlond previously helps the team know what they need to do, according to Wilmes.

"We've already played LeBlond and we know what they have," Wilmes said. "They're a good team. We just need to work on less turnovers and moving the ball."

Kuwitzky says if the 'Hounds can get past the Eagles' defense and slow down their offensive game plan they should be fine.

"We just need to stop them at what they do best," Kuwitzky said. "We need to stop their flex offense and attack their 1-3-1 zone."

If Maryville beats LeBlond, the No. 3 seed in the tournament, they could see conference foe Cameron in the district championship on Saturday night. Cameron, the No. 1 seed, will face Mid-Buchanan, the No. 4 seed, at 6 p.m. tonight.

The 'Hounds stand at No. 3 in the Class 3 rankings that came out Tuesday, while Cameron is one spot behind them as the No. 4 team in the class.

Starr and Vandiver take flight with Ravens of Benedictine

MEGAN CRAWFORD
NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

Two Spoofhounds will now learn to be true to different colors.

Keith Starr and Skyler Vandiver signed national letters of intent to play football for Benedictine College in Archison, Kan., on Feb. 24. Starr hopes to play linebacker; Vandiver, a running back or safety.

"We're pretty pleased that so many players moved on to the next level," 'Hounds football coach Paul Miller said. "These two in particular have really earned this opportunity."

As a senior, Vandiver rushed for six touchdowns, with 70 carries for 544 yards, 27 assisted tackles, 46 unassisted tackles and two interceptions.

"They both have really great potential," Miller said. "Skyler is the quiet but deadly type, who always sneaks up on you. You never see him coming."

As a senior, Starr brought in five sacks, one interception, seven tackles for loss, 36 assisted tackles and 19 unassisted tackles.

"Keith is only 17; he's still a baby. He's a kid who's not done

growing," Miller said. "Benedictine is going to have themselves a man in the next four years. He's not done growing physically. He is going to just grow and grow, in a lot of ways."

Starr feels that Vandiver offers the Benedictine football program speed as well as determination and the ability to never quit on the field.

"I'm just really happy to be playing football at the next level," Vandiver said. "I know I'm not the biggest or the fastest guy out there, so I really have to work hard and never stop."

Starr has a different outlook on becoming a Raven.

"I feel really blessed for this opportunity and about getting paid for an education," Starr said. "I'm a

pretty good athlete. I have speed and I am getting stronger every day."

The coach remains positive about his players' performance abilities, but emphasizes the importance of education.

"Academic goals are the number-one focus. Education is of primary importance for the right reasons. It's always nice to see such hard work pay off," Miller said.

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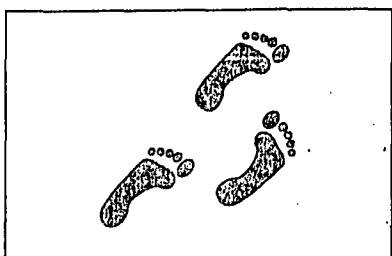


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Campus blogging craze boggles Stroller

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THE STROLLER

Bloggerspeak It's simple to write and understand, yet surprisingly annoying. It's like a cross between Ebonics and the spelling skills of a first-grader. It's enough to make Maya Angelou cringe.

Bloggerspeak, for those of you who aren't reading this, is the language used by the Xanganites, a breed of blogger the likes of which has never been seen by people with lives. And for those of you who don't know what a blogger is, but are still reading this, the cross-word is to your right.

Xanga is the cool new thing to do if you're a Northwest student or a 14 year old girl. It lets anybody, regardless of age, political stance or an actual audience write anything they want to for the whole world to see.

Xangas are full of such amazing and thought-provoking observations on far ranging from topics "What I did today" to "What I should have done today instead of spending six hours looking for the perfect emo song to go with my post about my favorite types of soup."

How did this become so popular? Did we decide the people we meet in

our daily lives aren't as satisfying as the people we meet online? And I'm not saying everyone who Xangas is a shut-in, but there is a very fine line between regular activity and addiction. Some of these yahoos update three to four times a day. Cripes, even SportsCenter only updates twice a day and that's just because Stuart Scott can read two Teleprompters at once.

Why are blogs so popular? I think it's because you can say things to your blog audience that you can't say to your family or friends.

"I egged a cop car yesterday"... "I got wasted this weekend"... "I lost my virginity last night"... "I hate myself"... "Nobody loves me"... "I can't quit doing coke"... "I think about killing myself"... "Why am I so screwed up?"

You can't tell these things to your family and friends. I mean you can, but would you? Do you trust your family and friends to deal with this information? What if they still don't care? What if they think you're crazy? They'll put you in a mental home. Sure, it's free Jell-o, but does that make up for having to play checkers with a guy who thinks he's Batman for the

rest of your life?

No, you don't risk that. So you tell the people who can't do anything more than throw in their two cents. You tell strangers; people who may not know anything about you or your problems. All they know about you is you're both in a Dungeons & Dragons blog.

Is it a ploy to get attention? Maybe; everybody deserves their 15 minutes. But more than that—it's liberating. It's liberating to tell a complete stranger your deepest, darkest, most horrifying secrets nobody else has ever heard before (like my identity) and then just block them from your site. Toss them aside. Show them your pain and then throw them away before they can do anything about it. Or, maybe you don't put them away, maybe you keep them around for awhile; see if they help the situation any. If not, then you can just chuck them. Either way, it could be the crucial first step to recovering. It's like tearing out a piece of your pain, giving it to this stranger and saying, "Here, you take it. I don't want this anymore," and then shutting the door.

For the most part, blogs are stupid, useless excuses for not dealing with your own life. It's just as bad, if not worse, than wearing designer clothes so you can try and be somebody else.

But on the other hand, it's a nice way to meet hot coeds with low self-esteem and even lower standards.

The Stroller has been a tradition since 1918 and does not reflect the views of The Northwest Missourian.

Applause for *Constantine's* superb special effects

BY NATHAN KWARTA
NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

Based on the DC/Vertigo comic book, "Hellblazer" by Kevin Brodbin, Mark Bombback and Frank Capello, *Constantine* is the story of irreverent supernatural detective Constantine (Keanu Reeves), who has literally been to hell and back, in addition to knowing that he is going back there soon. Constantine is cursed with the gift to maintain a balance of demons and angels on earth. When Constantine teams

up with skeptical policewoman Angela Dodson (Rachel Weisz) to solve the mysterious suicide of her twin sister (also played by Weisz), their investigation takes them through the world of demons and angels that exists just beneath the landscape of contemporary Los Angeles. Caught in a catastrophic series of otherworldly events, the two become inextricably involved and seek to find their own peace at whatever cost.

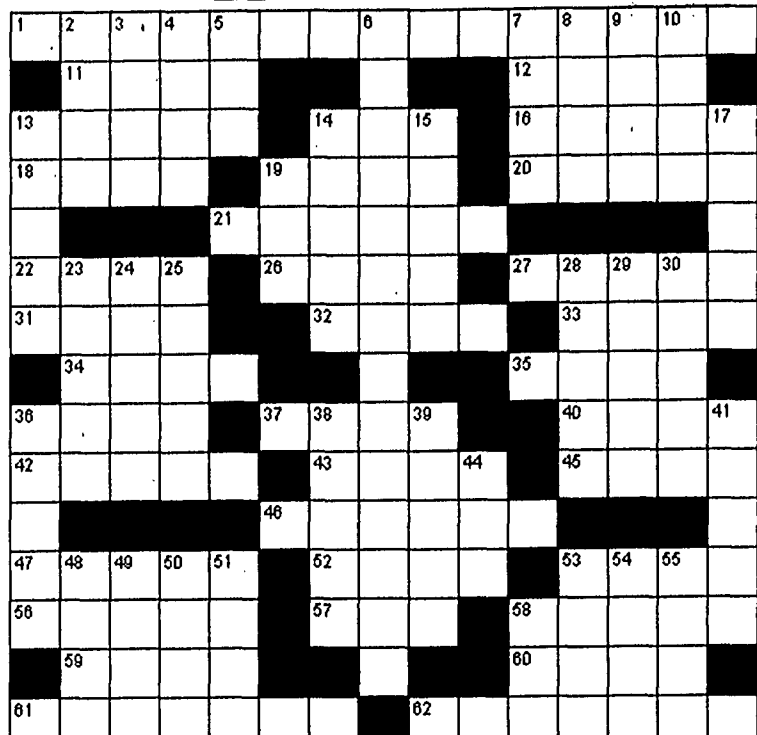
From start to end, director Francis Lawrence emphasizes his prowess for the visual spectacle. The movie shines be-

cause of the beautiful CGI and special post-production effects. Pictures of heaven and hell are painted with great detail.

Constantine will appeal to those who like the X-Men and the Matrix movie series. The movie has a series of twists similar to these movies.

Despite anyone's personal opinions of Reeves acting, *Constantine* is definitely worth a few dollars for the ticket to go see the movie simply because of the beautiful visual atmosphere the movie depicts.

WEEKLY CROSSWORD



Across

- 1. Informally
- 11. Indian exercise method
- 12. Continent
- 13. Lure
- 14. Apollo landing craft
- 16. Fight
- 18. Estimated arrival times
- 19. Become dim
- 20. Forest
- 21. Characteristic actions
- 22. Baby powder
- 26. Capital of Italy
- 27. Suspen-

- sion of breathing
- 31. Listen to
- 32. Repeat
- 33. Person who lies
- 34. Worthless person
- 35. Small children
- 36. Student at mixed school
- 37. Speech defect
- 40. Woody plant
- 42. Overturn
- 43. Public disturbance
- 45. Musical

- composition for one
- 46. Fiddle
- 47. Resembling suds
- 52. Cut
- 53. Cab
- 56. Run away with a lover
- 57. Possesses
- 58. Overwhelming fear
- 59. Trim
- 60. Middle Eastern bread
- 61. Soldier
- 62. Direct route

Down

- 2. Russian no
- 3. Narcotic plant
- 4. Selves
- 5. Narrow beam of light

- 6. Having one dimension
- 7. Kiln for drying hops
- 8. A person that uses
- 9. Location
- 10. Overdue
- 13. End of life
- 14. Toil
- 15. Measured
- 17. Academy award
- 19. Distant
- 23. Greek writer of fables
- 24. Shoe ties
- 25. Unrefined
- 28. Schemes
- 29. Kind of explosive (Abbrev)
- 30. Artist's support
- 36. Swearword
- 38. Inhabitants of Ireland
- 39. Ancient Greek city-state
- 41. Relating to wind
- 44. Apex
- 48. Bone of the forearm
- 49. Achiever
- 50. Stout pole
- 51. Abominable snowman
- 53. Hindmost part of an animal
- 54. Against
- 55. Capital of Shaanxi province, China
- 58. Philosophy, politics, and economics (Brit)

See answers below.

On the edge

PlayStation 3:


■ The biggest news about the PS3 is that it will use a revolutionary new chip, code named Cell. The Cell chip will function as the PS3's CPU. IBM, Toshiba and Sony have all worked together to develop the Cell chip. Sony alone has contributed \$325 million to the project.

■ Among the juiciest of rumors surrounding the PS3 are the ones that claim Sony's new console will function with Blu-ray. Another point of speculation is backwards compatibility.

■ There are conflicting stories about whether or not the PS3 will be backwards-compatible with PS2 and PS games. The backwards-compatibility of the PS2 was a huge selling point with many fans and gave the PS2 an immense catalog at launch.

■ Though little is known about the PS3, Sony has given a somewhat half-hearted announcement -- they will debut the hardware (or some version of it) at the 2005 E3 Expo.

www.howstuffworks.com



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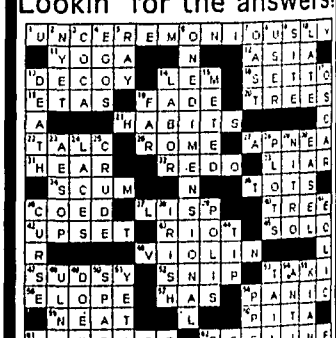
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Lookin' for the answers!



PLAYERS OF THE WEEK


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Byron Jackson tallied a total of 15 points, 9 rebounds and 2 steals this week against Missouri-Rolla. The Northwest team came away with a 78 to 51 victory.



Byron Jackson

Mandi Schumacher had 17 points, 9 rebounds and 3 steals as the Bearcats beat Missouri-Rolla by a score of 92 to 66 in their regular season finale.



Mandi Schumacher


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MIAA SPECIAL SECTION

[illegible]

WANTED: REPEAT

Despite the Northwest Basketball teams' seedings in this weekend's conference tournament, the Bearcats are still the defending champions. Though the women hold the seventh seed in the tournament, the team could still find themselves playing on Sunday for the conference championship. Emporia State will again try to end the Bearcats' season as they faceoff Thursday. The men's team will also try to defend their bragging rights as they face the pesky Bearcats from Southwest Baptist Friday.



Byron Jackson has made quite an impact on the Bearcats in his last two seasons, emotionally and physically. See Page 3C for more.

Get player-by-player breakdowns for all the Northwest starters inside. See page 4C.



Lone senior glad she stuck around

BY JEROME BOETTCHER
NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

After her freshman year, Ashely Poptanycz faced a tough decision.

The Tarkio High School graduate could either head to Australia to study abroad or stay at Northwest and continue playing basketball.

"I don't ever think about it; I know that I made the right decision," Poptanycz said. "I mean that's always out there if I wanted to do that when I graduate, I can do that then...I'm just so glad I stayed here and played basketball."

Poptanycz, an English education major, says that even if she had gone overseas it wouldn't have been right to come back and continue playing for the team.

"I don't think that I could have experienced anything over there that would have been anything better than what I've had here, these four years," she said.

The Northwest women's basketball team is equally happy about Poptanycz's decision, as she has enjoyed a successful career at Northwest.

Though Poptanycz's numbers don't show it, during her sophomore year she played in 27 games and averaged three rebounds per game, which paved the way for her junior year.

"My sophomore year just turned out really well, and I just liked it here so I decided to stay," Poptanycz said. "I wasn't ready to give up basketball and so I decided to stay."

The 5'8" forward started last season among a lineup that included four seniors. She averaged seven rebounds a game and 9.6 points per game last year. This season, the lone senior set a career high with 24 points a month ago against Southwest Baptist. She also recorded seven double-doubles this season, a team high. She recently was selected

to the Honorable Mention list on the all-conference team.

"I'm sure she's thrilled with (staying here) especially after the conference championship a year ago," Northwest head coach Gene Steinmeyer said. "You can go to Australia any time, but you can't always win a conference championship."

Poptanycz comes off a season in which she shared the floor with eight seniors, and now she shares it with 11 freshmen and only two upperclassmen.

However, Steinmeyer says Poptanycz has not complained about her involvement in what some might call a "rebuilding" year, especially after last season's run.

"I don't think Poppy's had those feelings," Steinmeyer said. "I think she just enjoys these young kids. I think she has enjoyed this year, I really do."

Poptanycz doesn't feel this has been a tough year or a problem to play with all the underclassmen.

"I don't feel like it's a rebuilding year

at all; I mean these freshman girls, you got to hand it to them, they've come in and picked it up," Poptanycz said. "I don't think anyone in the conference looks at us and thinks 'Oh it's just Northwest, we don't have to worry about this game' because all these girls have proven they can play with anyone at this level."

Though Poptanycz stands at just 5'8," she leads the team in rebounds and ranks second in the conference in rebounds with 8.4 per game.

"Sometimes you don't even notice what she's doing until after the game and she's got a double-double," teammate Meghan Blay said. "Some people just kind of don't notice that stuff because she's not real flashy; I don't know how to describe it but then you look at her stats and you see she's made a big difference in a couple games."

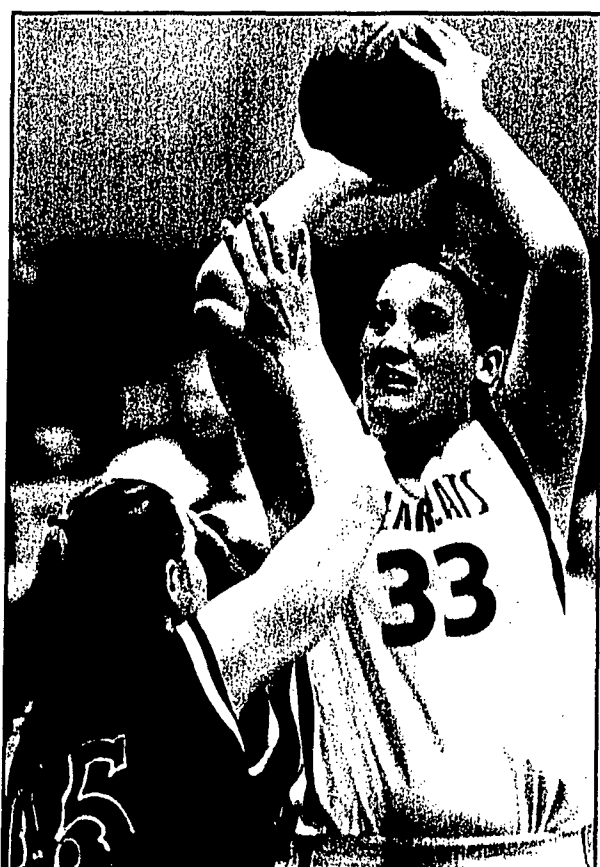
Though some seniors might be upset with going out without a winning season, Poptanycz says she doesn't even consider this a losing season.



PHOTO BY MATT FRYE/NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN
Ashely Poptanycz looks around a Central Missouri defender in a game this season. Poptanycz leads the team this year, and is second in the MIAA rebounds per game.

"I was talking to Coach the other day and I was telling him it doesn't really feel like we're a losing team," Poptanycz said. "My freshman year we were a losing

team and it felt like a losing team but this team is still eager to go to the gym and we all realize we can beat those people and one is ready for the next game."



Freshman Mandi Schumacher, right, shoots over a defender earlier this season. Schumacher scored 17 points in the Bearcats' final regular season game against Rolla. The Bearcats begin MIAA Tournament play tonight against Emporia State.

PHOTO BY MATT FRYE/NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

'Cats to see familiar foe at tournament

BY JEROME BOETTCHER
NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

For The Northwest women's basketball team this situation seems all too familiar.

Same place, same situation, same team. Win, or go home.

Last year in the MIAA Postseason Tournament, the Bearcats faced an Emporia State squad that beat them twice in the regular season. Then, the 'Cats hooked up with the Lady Hornets in the championship game with a regional tourney berth on the line. The third time proved a charm for Northwest, as they knocked off the No. 1 team in the tournament 76-62 for a MIAA Tournament Championship.

Here they are again, one year later, the stakes a little different for Emporia but with the season still on the line for Northwest. At 6 p.m. tonight the 'Cats face Emporia State for the third time this season and look to avoid a season sweep.

"We talked about defending the title, we talked about how this is exactly how it happened last year. It's kind of playing out pretty nicely," junior Meghan Blay said. "It's hard to beat a team three times, especially when it's a team that you got to work really hard to beat."

The Bearcats (13-16, 6-12) are No. 7 seed in the tournament and face No. 2 seeded Emporia (23-4, 14-4) in the first round of action.

The matchup is ideal for the team because both times they played the Lady Hornets this season, the games were close. Northwest took Emporia State to overtime at Bearcat Arena the first time the two teams met, before losing 63-59. In that game, Northwest held Emporia to 14 percent shooting from the field in the second half. Freshmen Chelsea Ernzen and Katie O'Grady also stepped up for Northwest, as they each scored 13 points.

"Ernzen's had good games against them," Steinmeyer said. "Both games

she played pretty good against (Emporia's 6'3" Esmay Vargas-Sanchez). They could start four kids six feet or bigger on us, but for some reason the matchups work for us."

In the second meeting, Emporia only led by one point at halftime but managed to pull away with the 78-71 victory at White Auditorium in Emporia, Kan. The real killer for the Bearcats in that game was the play of the Lady Hornets' Michelle Brown. The guard hit three three-pointers in the first half. She scored a career-high 19 points and teammate Andi McAlexander added 21 points. Northwest's Laura Friederich dropped a career-high 25 points.

"I mean, she's hit like four three's the whole year or something and then she knocks three on us in a row and we're just like 'What?'" Blay said. "It's not what we were expecting at all but people have nights like that."

Steinmeyer said that though Brown hurt the team, he was more worried about Emporia State's ability to execute high-lows and stop the fastbreaks.

"We were willing to give up threes to stop the high-low," Steinmeyer said. "But what we were willing to (give up), is all the dribble penetration she got on us. That's hurt us. The dribble penetration is a lot worse than those three's."

If the team did beat Emporia, they most likely could find themselves playing Central Missouri State in semifinals.

"It's a tough matchup; (Emporia) is sixth in the nation. They've only got losses on the season; obviously we can compete because of the two games we had with them," Steinmeyer said.

The 'Cats did beat the Jennie Bearcat Arena, 76-70, when CMSU ranked No. 10 in the nation. If Bearcats did advance to the championship game they could face Washburn. The Lady Blues are the No. 1 seed in the tournament and No. 3 in the region. The Lady Blues have been Northwest by a combined total of 10 points in the teams' two games together.

Northwest Basketball

MIAA Tournament

KC Municipal Auditorium

Women's Basketball vs. Emporia State
Thurs., Mar. 3, 6 p.m.

Men's Basketball vs. Southwest Baptist
Fri., March 4, 2:30 p.m.

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Senior thankful for opportunities

Jackson makes most of
port time at Northwest

BRENDAN KELLEY
NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

In a world where NBA players have
rights and it's more important to
ple what car you drove to the game
what you did in the game, it is
nforting to see a man like Byron

son.
Jackson stands at 6'5" and is the
force under the basket. He was
All-MIAA team honorable men-
in 2003-2004 and stands 28 re-
nds short of breaking the two-year
ounding record at Northwest of
9. In his senior year he averages

7 minutes,
points and
rebounds a
me but it isn't
cessarily
ackson's play
at helped him
d this year's
m to a 19-10
ord. It's his at-
tude.

"I criticize the
ys on the team
st like I criti-
ze myself and

ometimes it's not the correct way to
it, but I just try to stress the little
ings to the younger guys," Jackson
id. "I want them to see how hard
e seniors are playing on the court
nd make them appreciate not only
e game, but this program."

The respect that Jackson holds for
e game, the program and life comes
om his work ethic and priorities.

"Coach Tapp (head coach Steve
ppmeyer) didn't guarantee me a
aring spot when I came here. He
ld me that I had a chance to play if
orked hard," Jackson said. "More
ortantly he promised me I would
duate."

Jackson forged friendships at
orthwest since he moved to
aryville from Phoenix. Perhaps the
st noticeable is his friendship with
homore Victor James.

Before every game Jackson and
mes start on opposite sides of the

court and charge towards the middle,
meeting in midair.

"That just symbolizes that me and
him are here for each other," Jackson
said. "The whole team is tight off the
court, but I look at him as my little
brother."

The one factor that led Jackson to
pick Northwest over any other school
was the coaching staff. Over time, the
coaching staff became family to Jack-
son.

"I look at Coach V (associate head
coach Darren Vorderbruegge) and
Coach Tapp as father figures," Jack-
son said. "I look up to them for the
simple fact that I never had a father
growing up and ever since I came here
they have wanted the best for me. My
relationship with them is great as a

coach to an ath-
lete, but when
all is said and
done I know I
can go up there
and talk to them
about any-
thing."

Jackson does
a lot of things
well, but his
greatest strength
on the court
may be his abil-
ity to motivate

those around him to elevate their play.
"Byron has done a great job this
year," coach Steve Tappmeyer said.
"He's been our most consistent guy.
He has been our leader; he's been our
energy in practice and in games and
we feed on that."

Jackson played in his very last
game at Bearcat Arena on Saturday
against Missouri-Rolla. Jackson had
his best game of the season, scoring
a season-high 15 points.

"The one thing that was going
through my mind on Saturday was
that there might be a little kid out
there in the stands who might not
make it down to Kansas City to see
us play," Jackson said. "I just wanted
that kid to see how hard I played in
my last game at home."

With the 'Cats now entering
tournament play, every game is po-
tentially the last one Jackson will
ever play wearing a Northwest uni-

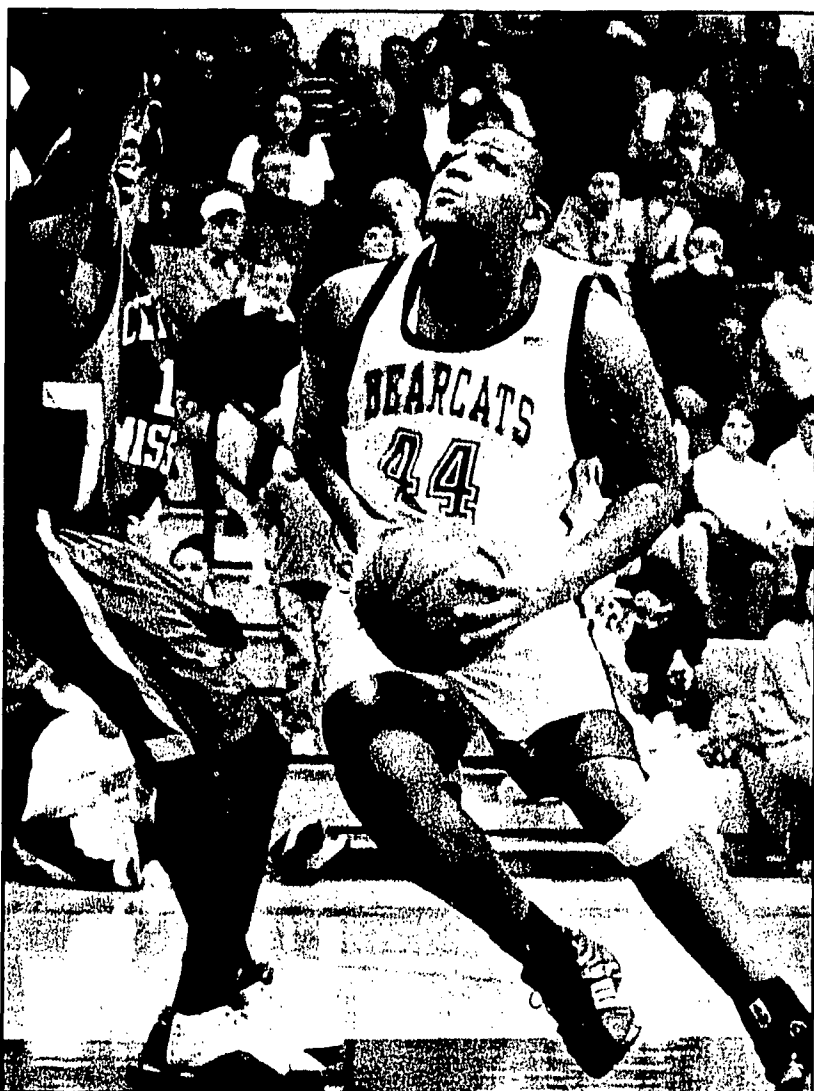


PHOTO BY MATT FRYE/NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN
Senior Byron Jackson drives to the basket earlier this season. Jackson has
performed well for the Bearcats in his two short seasons here. He averages 6.1
points a game and 5.1 rebounds a game in just an average of 17 minutes.

form.

"I'm not going to lie, it's a lot of
pressure," Jackson said. "It makes
you play harder and drives you just
knowing that every single play could
be your last."

Jackson spent two years at
Northwest. For two years he wore a
Bearcat uniform, but one memory
will stick with him for the rest of
his life.

"Coach Tapp and Coach V didn't
give up on me. They came all the
way to see me and recruited me,"
Jackson said. "They guaranteed me
that I was going to graduate. There's

a lot of people who could have given
up on me, and I really appreciate that
they never did."

Before the game begins on Friday
at Municipal Auditorium in Kansas
City, the National Anthem will play.
The Bearcats will line up shoulder to
shoulder, with hands covering their
hearts and heads raised towards the
flag.

One head will be down. Byron Jack-
son will be staring at the floor in prayer.

"My father, grandfather and grand-
mother passed away awhile ago," Jack-
son said. "I pray for them before every
game."

'Cats vs. 'Cats in first round of tourney play

BY BRENDAN KELLEY
NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

When the Bearcats step onto the
floor at 2:30 Friday in Kansas City's
Municipal Auditorium, they will
look across the court and see an op-
ponent who mirrors themselves:
Southwest Baptist University.

Not only do the two teams
share the same mascot, but in both
of the teams' meetings this year it
took overtime to settle the score.

This time the Northwest version
will step onto the floor to defend
their MIAA conference tournament
title, and attempt to make 2005
their sixth straight 20 win season.

"I hope that this is an advantage,
having guys who have been in the
tournament and found success be-
fore," Tappmeyer said. "This sea-
son, there aren't a lot of high ex-
pectations like there were last year,
so I really don't expect there to be
a whole lot of pressure on the guys
to perform."

The 'Cats are fresh off two key
victories. They grabbed a win in a
close game with Missouri Western
and then posted a blowout win
against Missouri-Rolla, in which
they set a new single season record
for three-point baskets made with
259.

"You'd like to think that those
two wins would build our confi-
dence, but you just don't know un-
til you get onto the floor,"
Tappmeyer said. "The hungry
teams are the ones who have the
best chance."

The 'Cats might be coming
around at the perfect time. There
was a certain feel about the team
on Saturday not seen most of the
year. The point guards took con-
trol of the temp of the game; the
big men forced turnovers inside
and converted them into points on
the other end. Finally, it seemed as
though the 'Cats shooting finally
came around, as they hit four straight
three pointers on four possessions.

"We made a couple of hustle plays
where we recovered loose balls and

turned them into points,"
Tappmeyer said. "When that hap-
pens we start playing with some in-
tensity and some fire. One of the
things we have to be able to do if we
want to extend our season, is recog-
nize when we don't have good inten-
sity on the defensive end and get it
corrected before we get down 12 or
14."

The first time the 'Cats went up
against Southwest Baptist, the
Bearcats wearing purple and white
emerged victorious 88-81.

When Southwest Baptist made
the trip to Maryville later in the year
Northwest returned the favor, beat-
ing Baptist 96-90 in overtime.

"Baptist presents some match-up
problems for us," coach Steve
Tappmeyer said. "They have a great
guard in Sheldon Pace and they're re-
ally hard to match up with off of the
dribble."

Pace burned the 'Cats for 29
points in the last contest and fellow
teammate and guard Deon Davis
added 24.

"Their guards spread the floor and
try to beat you on middle drives,"
Tappmeyer said. "They're very good
at causing help and kicking it out to
the open man and getting you into a
chasing game."

In a season plagued by injury and
so many different players being used
in different lineups and in different
ways, leadership has been a huge ques-
tion mark all season.

"Byron and Jesse will step up and
lead, but it's so much better if you get
some leadership out of your guards so
I'm really hoping that Houston and
Maxie step up," Tappmeyer said.

If the Bearcats do win on Friday
they would play at 6 p.m. on Satur-
day night and would face the winner
of the Central Missouri State/Mis-
souri Western game in the semifinals.

CMSU is the No. 1 seed in the
tournament and swept the regular
season series against Northwest. If
the Bearcats made it to the finals,
they would play at 3:30 p.m. with a
regional tournament berth on the
line.

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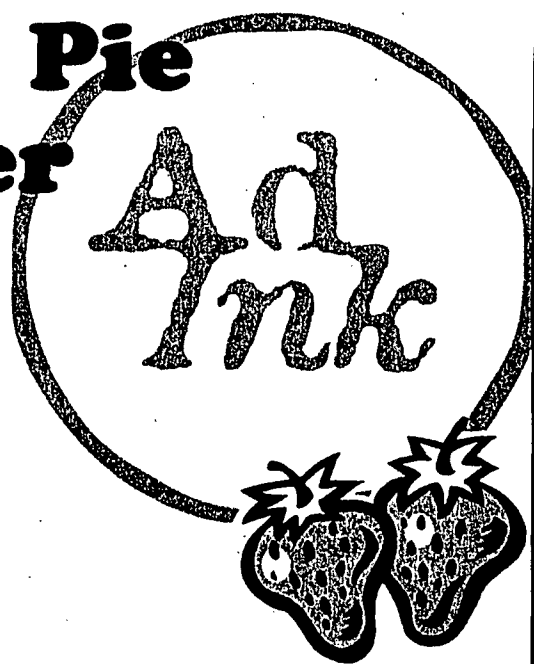
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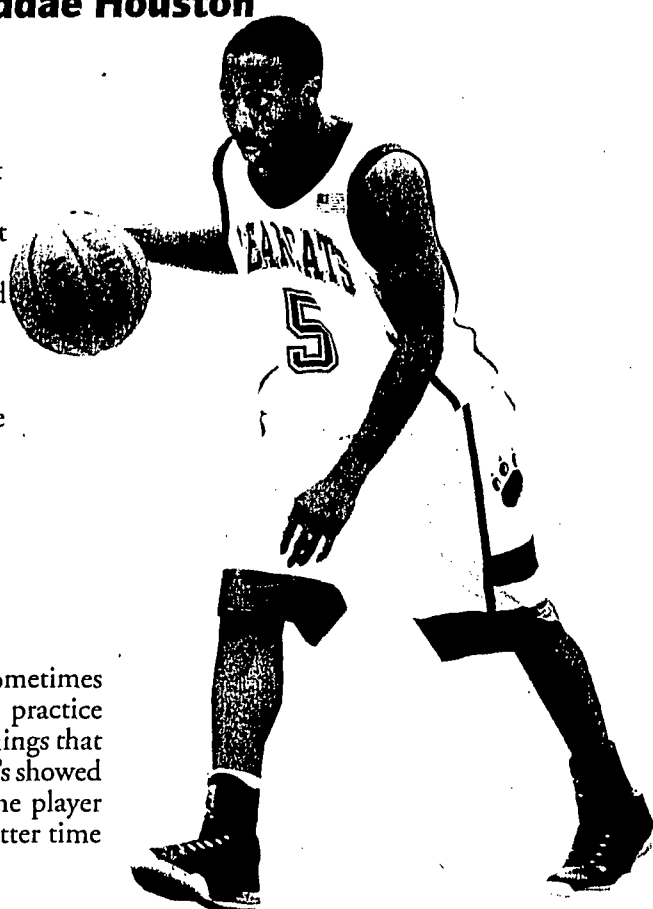
The Rest of the Starting Five

Addae Houston

Houston, a 5'7" junior guard from Eastfield Community College in Texas... Addae had to sit out the first part of the season due to NCAA transfer rules. Houston fit in with the 'Cats right away and became the "general" on the floor averaging 25.7 minutes a game...Houston dished out 58 assists this season... Houston is the 'Cats second leading scorer, averaging 10.7 points a game... Houston's high-water mark came December 30 against Southwest Baptist when he scored 23... Houston has shown that the pressure of shooting from the line does not bother him, shooting 81% from the line.

Tappmeyer's Thoughts:

"Addae continues to get better. I think we sometimes forget that he's a guy that wasn't even on the practice floor until late December. I think some of the things that he has struggled with are products of that, but he's showed some signs of really taking it to the level of the player that we felt like we recruited and there is no better time to do that than right now."



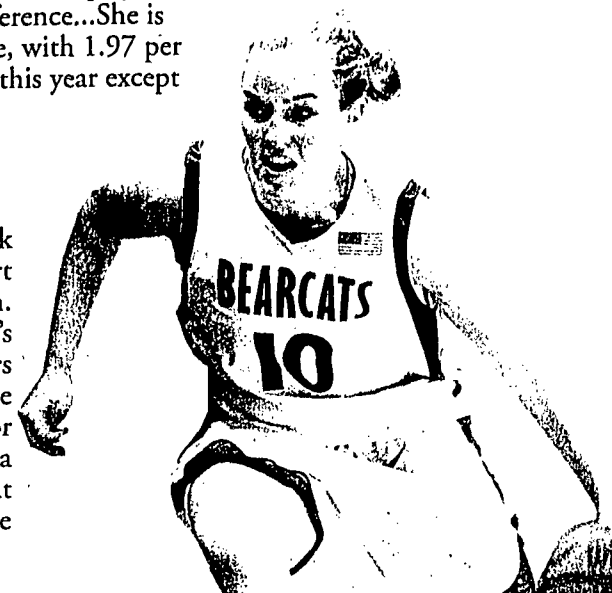
The Rest of the Starting Five

Laura Friederich

Friederich is a 5'8" junior guard from Shawnee Missions South High School...the junior overcame a bad first half of the conference season and currently leads the Bearcats in scoring with 14.3 points per game...Friederich recently passed the 1,000 point mark in her career when she scored 15 points against No.3 Washburn, Feb. 16...she had a career-high 25 points against Emporia State Feb. 5...she hit 77.8 percent of her free throws during conference play...she is currently eighth in scoring in the conference...She is eighth in the conference in steals per game, with 1.97 per game...Friederich started all of her games this year except one.

Steinmeyer Says:

"In the last two weeks ago she has gotten back to what we like. Against Rolla she didn't start real well. Then she lit it up when she came in. She was able to overcome the slow start and that's been a M.O. of Laura. In the past two years she's could overcome slow starts. This year she hasn't but it's changed now. She's had three or four games where she's had periods of either a slow start or not doing well in the middle but she's always come out of it. I really like where Laura's at right now."



Austin Meyer

Meyer, a 6'8" junior forward from Blue Springs High School in Blue Springs, Missouri ...Meyer earned an all-MIAA honorable mention for the second straight year and has been the backbone of the Bearcat team...the junior leads the team in scoring averaging 13.7 points a game...he ripped the nets for 29 points earlier in the year at Missouri-Rolla... Austin led Bearcat scorers 12 times this year... Meyer averages 27.3 minutes a game...at 6'8" Meyer has been a force to be reckoned with grabbing 5.4 rebounds a game and amassing 12 blocks throughout the season... Meyer proved there is not any weakness to his game by knocking in 71 three pointers this season...opponents have not been able to stop Meyer from anywhere, including the free throw line, where he shoots a cool 81 percent.

Tappmeyer's Thoughts:

"Austin has been one of our more consistent players. He can play at a level that is equivalent to that of the top ten players in our league. We would really benefit from seeing him step up and have great games back to back in the tournament."



Kelli Nelson

Nelson is a 5'4" freshman guard who usually comes off the bench...this will only be her fifth start of the season...she will guard Emporia's speedy Michelle Brown, who torched the Bearcats for 19 points the last time the two teams met...Thursday's game will mark her third consecutive start...she is third on the team, which leads the conference in steals, with 55 takeaways...Nelson had a career high eight steals against Peru State, Dec. 3, 2004...Nelson had a career high eight assists against Missouri-Rolla Saturday...she scored a career high 15 points against Missouri Southern on Jan. 8.

Steinmeyer Says:

"She's really fast and she's a good on the ball defender. The one thing she wasn't very good at is distributing the ball. But she is getting better at it; she had a career high eight assists against Rolla. She's getting better at that. We always accuse her of sometimes she dribbles that could be playing Division I basketball and still think she is playing in 1A ball in Iowa. She tries to shoot over kids like that. She's done a really good job of scoring, handling the ball and defending for us. She gives us the right balance at that wing."

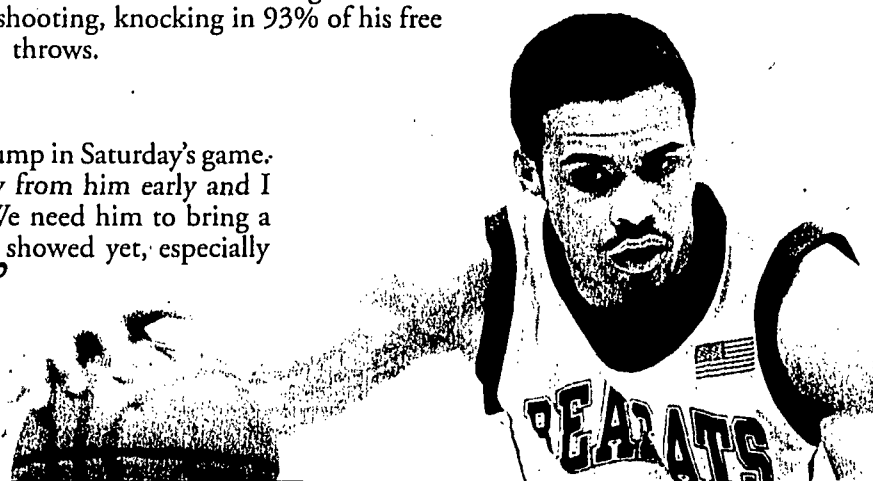


Brandon Maxie

Maxie, a 5'11" sophomore guard from Eastfield Community College in Texas... Maxie has been asked to eat up more and more minutes as the season progressed, averaging 19.5 minutes a game... Maxie averages 5.9 points a game... Brandon's season high came December 30 against Southwest Baptist when he scored 14... Maxie stepped up and worked hard underneath the boards averaging 2.4 boards a game... Maxie uses his natural shooting abilities to lead the team in free throw shooting, knocking in 93% of his free throws.

Tappmeyer's Thoughts:

"Brandon really made a jump in Saturday's game. Some balls got taken away from him early and I kind of challenged him. We need him to bring a toughness that we haven't showed yet, especially from that backcourt spot."

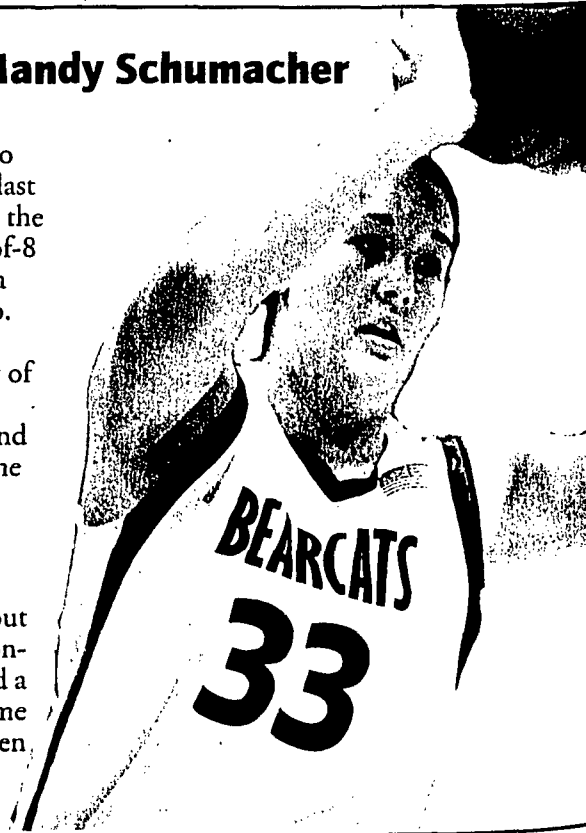


Mandy Schumacher

Schumacher is a 6'1" freshman forward who came on strong for the Bearcats...in four of her last five games she has scored at least nine points...in the regular season finale she scored 17 points on 7-of-8 shooting from the field...Schumacher scored a career high 19 points at Pittsburg State on Feb. 12...she averages 7.2 points per game during conference play...she will have the responsibility of guarding Emporia's Esmery Vargas-Sanchez Thursday...Sanchez is Emporia's 6'3" forward and the Bearcats have held her to six points per game this season.

Steinmeyer Says:

"Just in the last two weeks she's really came out of a little bit of a slump. She came into the conference season playing great but then really had a tough time for about a month. She's really come out of it. Her and Chelsea (Ernzen) have taken turns impressing us."

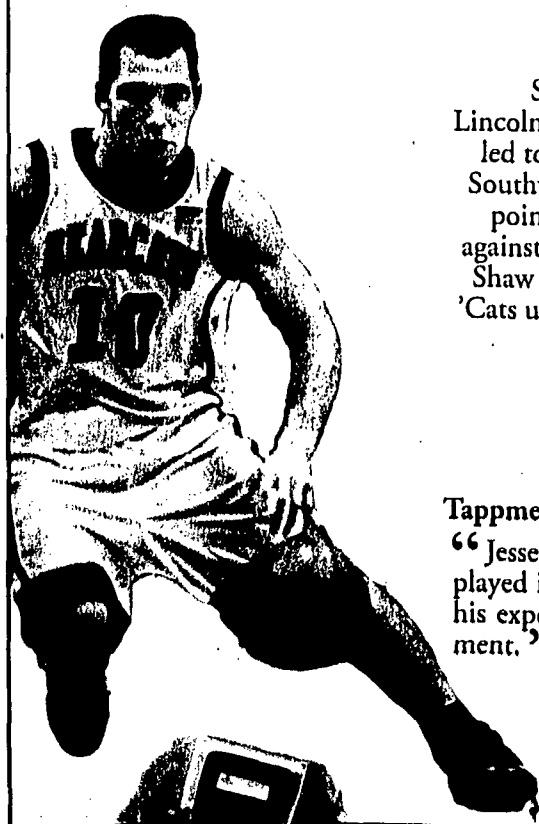


Jesse Shaw

Shaw, a 6'5" senior from Lincoln East High School in Lincoln Neb., 24.8 minutes a game this season...two Shaw steals led to game-winning shots for senior Travis Gardner against Southwest Baptist and Missouri Western...Shaw averages 10.4 points a game...Shaw's season high came on November 16 against William Penn when he torched the nets for 26 points... Shaw shoots 41 percent from behind the arc... Jesse helps the 'Cats underneath the boards by averaging 4.7 rebounds a game.

Tappmeyer's Thoughts:

"Jesse has been through a lot of basketball at Northwest. He's played in postseason play for three years. I'm really hoping that his experience will really help to lead this team in the tournament."



Meghan Blay

Blay is a 5'8" point guard out of Shawnee Mission Northwest High School...the junior averages 8.4 points per game and 4.4 assists per game...she averages 27.6 minutes per game...scored all 12 points against Central Missouri State earlier this season in the last five minutes...scored a career-high 15 points against Missouri Southern...hit game-winning shot against the University of Nebraska-Omaha to give the 'Cats a 67-65 victory on Dec. 11...averages nearly two steals per game and had a career high four steals against Truman State Feb. 9.

Steinmeyer Says:

"She has that upperclassmen leadership. She makes good choices, she's the best shooter we have off the dribble. If you would take away the first five minutes of her games she would hardly have any turnovers. She almost does all of her turnovers in her first five minutes. She tells me the adrenaline is flowing, she can throw it through a wall. The stop and pop shooting and the upperclassmen leadership (are her main points)."

